

## Lonrho buys 'Observer' and will launch London evening paper

The Observer has been acquired by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, in a deal with Atlantic Richfield, an American oil company. The deal puts a liberal newspaper in the

hands of a company whose activities were described by Mr Edward Heath as "the unacceptable face of capitalism". Mr Rowland also said he would start a new London evening newspaper.

## JS owner bows out after four years

Martin Huckerby

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, today took over the JS newspaper and announced that he was starting a new London evening paper which will challenge the monopoly of The Sunday Standard.

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Mr Rowland last night after the deal was announced.

are really going to activate it," he said smiling.

He recognized that with a new, aggressive proprietor at The Sunday Standard, the shape of the newspaper would be different. "I like competition and so does Mr Murdoch, I am sure," he said.

Mr Rowland said at his London news conference last night: "We are going to maintain high standards; we are delighted to be part of the Observer. The editorial control will stay where it is."

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of selling the paper throughout the greater London area. The new evening paper would be "upmarket," he said, thus directly challenging The Sunday Standard rather than seeking to undercut it with a more popular appeal.

Mr Jonathan Hunt, father of the National Union of Journalists' chapel at The Observer, commented: "We are completely in the dark. We do not know at this stage whether it is a good thing or a bad thing."

He believed that Atlantic Richfield had wanted to sell The Observer for some time. "The present deal seems to be the best formula for a responsible transfer of ownership in the eyes of management."

But one of Mr Hunt's chapel members was angry that there was no consultation with the staff about the transfer. "I took a 10-minute telephone call to rearrange the ownership of this newspaper," he said bitterly.

"For all we know this could be a good thing but we fear the worst because the first thing we knew about any deal was that we have been sold lock, stock, and barrel to a new proprietor."

Conditions, terms and the future of our organization seem to have been decided by two people on the ends of a telephone across the Atlantic, completely irrespective of the needs and conditions in Britain of the newspaper industry."

However, he welcomed the fact that The Observer would continue to publish but he hinted that there could be questions from the NUJ because of the speed with which the transfer of ownership was made and the lack of consultation.

Dr Connor Cruise O'Brien, editor in chief of the Observer since 1976, who learnt of the sale only last night, said he would be flying from Dublin to London today to have discussions with the staff. Dr O'Brien who said earlier he was resigning next month for family reasons said it was too early to comment on the sale.

Third owner in five years, page 5

## Union leaders and employers agree on package that will yield total increase of 13.1% Water strike threat ends after minister's intervention

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

The threatened national water strike was called off last night after union leaders and employers agreed a 12.3 per cent pay offer. Both sides expected it to be accepted by the industry's 32,000 manual workers.

A telephone call yesterday morning from Mr Tom King, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, was understood to have persuaded the employers to offer new talks to the four unions.

It was cited last night as further evidence of the

Government's reluctance to countenance a damaging confrontation with powerful unions. The unions expect to hear their members' decision on the offer by March 14 and it is certain to have an impact on pay negotiations involving other groups of workers with industrial strength in the gas and electricity industries.

Last night's agreement was reached after more than five hours of talks and represents a 2.3 per cent increase on the National Water Council's previous 10 per cent offer, which it had described as "final".

Mr Newall, national industrial officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said the union's decision on the offer by March 14 and it is certain to have an impact on pay negotiations involving other groups of workers with industrial strength in the gas and electricity industries.

Union officials had also received messages from workers taking unofficial action in the North East that two hospitals in the region situated on high ground had only five hours supply of water left.

The offer of new talks was made to the unions as they were on the verge of deciding to give seven days' notice of an all-out national strike. Union leaders said that if the offer

had not been made the meeting would certainly have voted for a strike because they feared they would not be able to hold back their members from spreading unofficial industrial action.

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man of the council, said that the employers had moved their position, with grave differences of opinion, in view of the "great misery that would occur if we went into a strike on our previous offer."

The unions saw the settlement of the miners' pit closure problem as a reinforcement of the strength of muscle they were prepared to exert and it was with that in mind we felt we would be faced with a more resolute attitude by the men," Sir Robert said.

Mr Newall believed that the men would be prepared to accept it.

## More than 5,000 jobs disappearing daily

By Melvyn Westlake

Jobs have been disappearing at a rate of more than 5,000 each working day, as the recession has taken its toll on employment this winter. It now seems likely that the employed labour force contracted by about 350,000 places between three months of 1980 (after making allowance for seasonal changes).

There was a similar drop in the third quarter but the fourth quarter figure shows a rate of decline twice that during the first half of last year.

During 1980 as a whole more than a million jobs have disappeared, the greatest number since the Second World War. The previous largest decline in the employed labour force—320,000—took place between 1970 and 1972, while the decline during the last recession, in the mid-1970s, was only about the same as that in the fourth quarter of 1980 alone.

The fall in employment is not simply the mirror-image of the rise in unemployment, because many of those people who lose their jobs do not register.

If all those made redundant had registered, the increase in unemployment would be still greater. Figures published on Tuesday showed that the total level of jobless in February reached 2,463,000.

But as the population of working age is rising at about 200,000 a year, this suggests that only two out of three workers who lose their jobs do actually register.

The others can be accounted for in several ways. Early retirement, particularly among men, is one explanation. Another is that women give up looking for jobs altogether or choose to stay at home at times of increasing unemployment. The supply of female labour, which increased rapidly throughout the 1970s, has started to fall, according to Government figures.

The total employed labour force is estimated to have declined to around 24 million from 25.15 million in mid-1979. Manufacturing industry has been the hardest hit. According to figures published yesterday by the Department of Employment, manufacturing employment dropped by another 58,000 in December (seasonally adjusted), less than the 70,000 to 85,000 range of falls in the previous five months, but much faster than in the spring and early summer.

Manufacturing employment in December was just over 5,000 below its level in June 1979. Before that the decline in manufacturing employment had been no more than a gentle 5,000 a month.

Employment has also shrunk in the service industries. First indications suggest that as many as 100,000 jobs may have disappeared in this sector during the fourth quarter of 1980, a similar drop to that experienced in the late summer and early autumn. It follows a decade of almost continuous steady growth.

All this represents a "shakeout" of labour. It could have the effect of greatly increasing the level of productivity in many sectors of the economy when the level of business activity begins to pick up.

But it also means that the economy will have to expand considerably if enough jobs are to be created to have a big effect to help the numbers of people who would like to work.



Photograph by Brian Harris

Six hundred young actors and actresses, led by Oliver Hill, aged nine, as Oliver Twist, marched through London yesterday protesting at the withdrawal of the Arts Council grant to the National Youth Theatre.

However, Sir Roy Shaw, secretary-general of the council, said they were wasting their time because the grant had already been reallocated. His point was emphasized later when a meeting of the council rejected the youth theatre's plea for its grant to be restored (Martin Huckerby, Our Theatre Reporter, writes). There was also a demonstration outside the council's headquarters in Piccadilly over the withdrawal of grants to 41 arts organizations.

## Labour's dissidents to make final break next week

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

The final break with the Labour Party by its dissident "Social Democrat" MPs is now planned for next week, probably Tuesday. Although two of the 11 who intend to break away have already resigned the Labour whip, the rest, led by Dr David Owen, and Mr William Rodgers, former Cabinet ministers, intend to ask maximum effect by leaving en bloc.

The occasion chosen is the Commons debate on the Trident nuclear deterrent replacement. The debate is expected to be held on Tuesday. Shortly before, the Social Democrats would resign the Labour whip and register the strength attributed to them in opinion polls.

The gradualist approach to next week's climax continued yesterday with varying actions by those intending to leave. Mr Tom Bradley, MP for Leicester East, was absent yesterday from the meeting of the party's National Executive Committee, and he conveyed his resignation from the party's staff committee. His resignation from the NEC is expected, but the date has not been set.

Mr Robert MacLennan, MP for Caithness and Sutherland, resigned as Mr Foot's frontbench spokesman, where he had been a member of Mr Denis Healey's foreign affairs team, and notified his constituency that he would not be standing again as a Labour candidate.

Mr Rodgers is expected to be the last of the group to convey his intentions this weekend to his constituency of Teesside, Stockton.

The 11 MPs are Mr Bradley, Mr Michael Cresswell (Liverpool, Toxteth), Mr Thomas Ellis (Wrexham), Mr John Horam (Gateshead, West), Mr MacLennan, Dr Owen (Plymouth, Devonport), Mr Rodgers, Mr John Roper (Parnborough), Mr Neville Sandelson (Billingdon, Hayes and Harlington), Mr Mike Thomas (Newcastle, East), and Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby). Mr Ellis and Mr Cresswell have already resigned the Labour whip.

Reselection process, page 2  
Diary, page 14

## Americans elated at Thatcher visit

in David Cross

Washington, Feb 25

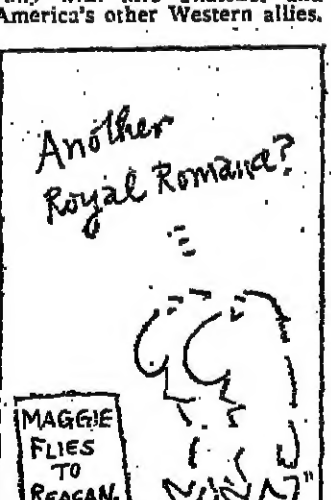
Ms Margaret Thatcher's arrival in Washington tonight was being billed here as one of the great love feasts in the history of the so-called Anglo-American "special relationship".

It is hard to remember, says the columnist of the Washington Post, in an article earlier this week, that the resident of the White House, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, has been so remarkably of one mind, not just on their economic theories but on their fundamental world view.

And it is hard to imagine more useful opportunity for Reagan and Thatcher to meet, say needs, not only Thatcher's reinforcement for economic designs, but her own enthusiasm for the global tough line on the global front that Thatcher can get from Reagan's reinforcement of her profoundly popular economic policies.

In the view of both American and British officials here, the similarity of views between the two leaders on East-West relations and economics is indeed likely to be the main theme which will run through two full days of deliberations in the American capital. The talks, which were originally envisaged as likely to be exploratory in nature given the short time President Reagan has been in office, have assumed more topicality since here in Washington, President Brezhnev, earlier this week to his American counterpart to attend a summit meeting of the two super-powers.

Mr Reagan, who has long made a point of emphasizing the importance he attaches to full consultation with his allies, has already promised that he will discuss the suggestion fully with Mrs Thatcher and America's other Western allies.



MAGGIE FLIES TO REAGAN

By coincidence, M Jean Franco-Ponce, the French Foreign Minister, has been meeting senior administration officials here in Washington. M Jean Franco-Ponce, who is on a similar mission to Washington next week.

During her talks with President Reagan and his senior foreign policy advisers, Mrs Thatcher will also be seeking clarification of the new Administration's views on a whole range of East-West problems, including Afghanistan and the Gulf, Poland, El Salvador as well as Cuban help for leftist governments and guerrillas in the Caribbean and Africa.

The Middle East and Africa are also highly likely to come up during the talks. Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who is accompanying her, will want to emphasize the importance Britain and the other European countries attach to the view of the Palestinians being taken seriously into account when any fresh attempt is made by Washington to press ahead with peace negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

In this context, Mr Reagan and his foreign policy advisers are likely to ask the British

Continued on page 9, col 1

## Mr Gormley is leased with talks progress

multi-million-pound package of subsidies for the coal industry began to take shape during tripartite talks between the Government, the miners' union and the National Coal Board. Mr Gormley, president of the miners' union, said: "I think the luxury will get a good deal when the negotiations are finished." The main theme of the rescue programme is a curtailment of British coal exports.

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## Rose out of England tour of W Indies

Brian Rose has a weakness in his right eye and is to return home from the West Indies tour of the West Indies. Two specialists told him the condition may be corrected with the aid of glasses. He follows Bob Willis, who flew home last week after suffering a knee injury.

Earthquake toll

The death toll in the earthquake in central Greece rose to 13 as rescuers searched the wreckage. About 3,000 buildings were damaged by the two tremors which affected the Corinth area. The Army has pitched tents to shelter the homeless in Perahora, the worst hit village.

General dismissed

General Alfonso Armada Comya, one of Spain's top generals who had close links with King Juan Carlos, has been dismissed as Deputy Chief of the Army General Staff after Monday's failed putsch.

## Telephone call stops Britons leaving Iran

The three British missionaries in Iran have been prevented from leaving the country as they were about to board an aircraft for Paris. Dr John Coleman, his wife Audrey, and Miss Jean Waddell were held back after a mysterious telephone call.

Islamabad: A prominent opponent of President Zia held in security raids after unrest.

Hiroshima: The Pope appeals to the world's leaders to renounce war and disarm.

Chemical industry: Four-page Special Report to mark the centenary of the Society of Chemical Industry.

Classified advertisements: Appointments, page 26; La crème de la crème, 25; Personal, 20, 28; Recruitment opportunities, 26

Home News, 2, 4-6; Business, 15-24; Law Report, 6; Snow reports, 18

Letters, 15, 20; Sport, 17, 18; Crossword, 28; Obituary, 16; TV & Radio, 27; Parliament, 11; Theatres, etc, 27; Sale Room, 15; 25 Years Ago, 16; Weather, 16

Leader page, 15

Letters: Russians in Afghanistan, from Mr Muhammad Aziz Naim; the Nationality Bill from Mr Richard Zippel, and others. Leading articles: Atlantic alliance; Spain. Features, pages 10, 14. Bernard Levin turns to Beethoven; Alan Hamilton's London Diary; The Times Cook.

Reviews, page 12. Reviews of Alice James, Small is Possible, Peter Vanstrat, Lowry, the Battle of Marston, Peter De Vries, Dorothy Wordsworth, Julian Fane, Rudolf Nassauer.

Arts, page 11. John Higgins reports from New York on the Peter Dinklage triple bill at the Met; Sheridan Morley meets Henderson Forsythe, star of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, which opens in Drury Lane tonight. Obituary, page 16. Signor Mario Camerini, Professor H. B. Hall.

Business News, pages 15-24. Stock Markets: Strong selective buying of equities saw the FT Index up 10 points through the 500 barrier to close 7,518.25. Gilt-edged securities: 2½% registered falls of up to 23.

## Judge rules out music tuition fees

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

A High Court ruling yesterday that a county council was not entitled to charge parents for individual instrumental tuition could have widespread and serious implications for all local education authorities, the Association of County Councils said.

Mr Justice Forbes made a declaration that Hereford and Worcester Council was not entitled to charge Mr Eric Jones, deputy headmaster of Pershore High School, fees for clarinet tuition within school hours for his daughter Helen, or for extra tuition for his daughter Ruth.

Both had been receiving free tuition until last spring when the county council decided to charge for individual tuition. The council had decided that from the beginning of the summer term, 1980, all pupils receiving individual or group instrumental tuition would be charged between £5 and £10 a term.

Some 5,000 pupils were affected, 4,500 of whom are now paying the fees.

Mr Jones, county secretary of the National Union of Teachers, objected that the authority was not allowed to charge for musical tuition as section 61 of the Education Act, 1944, prohibited authorities from charging fees "in respect of education provided in any such (maintained) school".

In his ruling yesterday, the judge said the council had provided individual musical tuition during normal school hours as part of the daily timetable.

If the council had stopped providing individual musical tuition during normal school hours, he said, Mr Jones, whose action was supported by the union, was awarded costs against the authority.

The Department of Education and Science estimates that 40 out of the 96 local education authorities in England are making some charges in respect of pupils, though some might be for activities out of school hours.

Law not broken, page 4  
Law Report, page 6

## Cornwall hit by tremors

Three minor earth tremors shook west Cornwall last night. Police and television station headquarters were jolted by hundreds of anxious callers.

The shocks affected an area from Falmouth to Land's End, but no structural damage was reported.

One local resident said: "The

house shook in slow motion. It definitely was not Concord."

A spokesman for the Eskdalemoss Observatory, near Edinburgh, said last night that its seismic equipment had registered two of the three tremors.

The shocks occurred between 7.17 pm and 8.35 pm.

## Buchanan's

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James Buchanan & Co. Ltd.  
Glasgow & London  
Established 1817







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Narrow your sights to cars that are available exclusively with a two litre engine and the numbers rapidly dwindle.

The Vauxhall Carlton is one of the few cars in this uncommonly select group.

**Shouldn't a bigger engine merit a bigger car?**

Carlton measures 15½ feet from bumper to bumper, a shade longer than a Granada.

It has sleek, rakish lines and is clearly bigger than the average family saloon. Something that's difficult to appreciate from a photograph but immediately apparent in the showroom or on the road.

But where the extra inches really prove their value is inside the car and on the road.

Driver and passengers alike are blessed with generous legroom and ample space to relax in.

It's the kind of car that can turn a long journey into something to be enjoyed, rather than something to be suffered.

(If you prefer an estate, you'll be interested to learn that the Carlton estate actually carries more payload than the big Volvo estate).

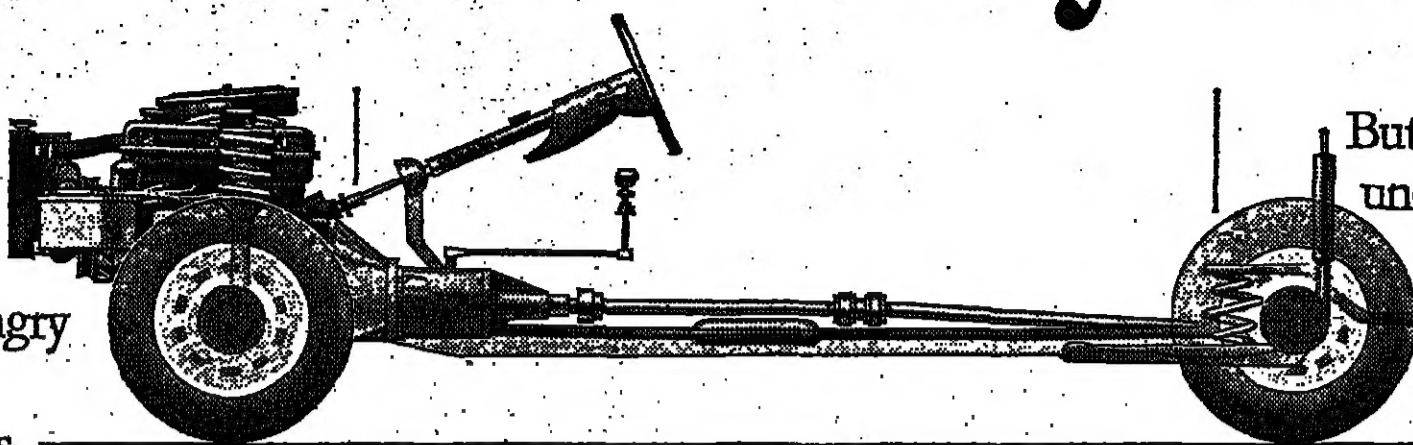
**An outstanding engine. And an outstanding shape.**

No amount of interior comfort can make up for disappointing performance.

In this area, too, Carlton excels.

A remarkably responsive engine combined with an aerodynamically efficient shape endows the car with an impressive turn of speed.

Flat out, the car will reach 107 mph. More realistically, it will cruise all day at 90 mph down the autobahn with power to spare, opportunity permitting.



But you'll also find a few rather unexpected touches.

A driver's seat, for example, that can be adjusted for height, as well as for reach and rake.

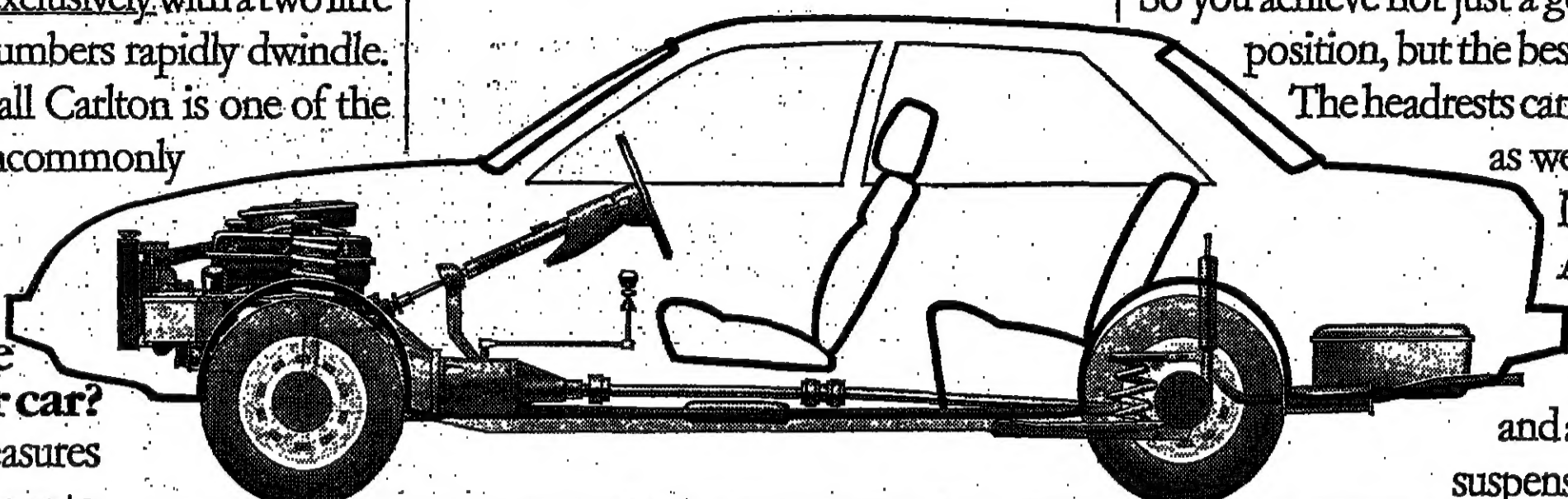
So you achieve not just a good driving position, but the best one.

The headrests can even be tilted, as well as raised or lowered.

And thanks to the car's aerodynamics

and advanced suspension geometry

you can enjoy it all in the virtual absence of wind or road noise.



**The protocol.**

It won't have escaped your notice that car dealers are more than normally eager for your custom.

Vauxhall dealers

are no exception, you'll be glad to learn.

At the moment, they're offering some very good deals on Carlton.

It's a good time to talk.

If you're buying through the company, it may also be worth investigating Vauxhall's Masterhire leasing scheme.

A phone call to (0582) 21122 Ext. 8332 will put you in touch with the right people.

It should be the first step to acquiring the perfect embodiment of the two litre motor car.

**VAUXHALL**    
**CARLTON**

Acceleration from rest to 60 mph takes a shade under 11 seconds.

Equally impressive is the way Carlton handles this performance.

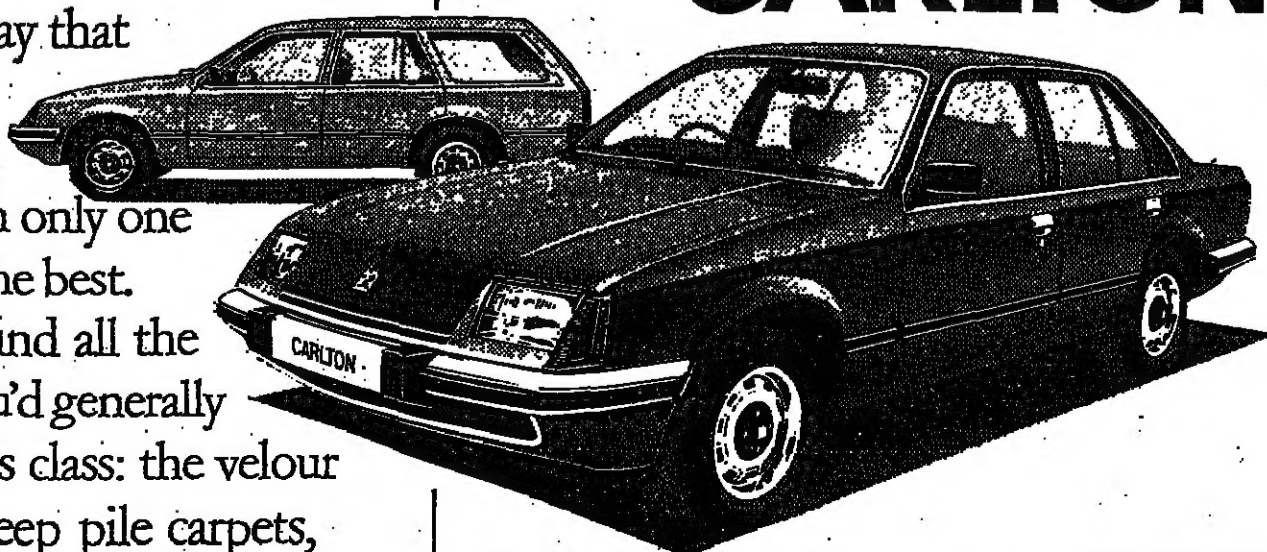
It corners surely and evenly with road holding that quickly inspires confidence in the driver.

Reassuring, too, is the car's fuel consumption as demonstrated by the D.O.E. figures: 24.4 mpg urban cycle, 38.7 mpg at a steady 56 mph and 30.7 mpg at a steady 75 mph.

**A single minded approach to luxury**

In the same way that Carlton is available with only one engine, it's also available with only one standard of luxury: the best.

Inside, you'll find all the creature comforts you'd generally expect of a car in this class: the velour covered seats, the deep pile carpets, the push-button radio, the quartz clock and so forth.



CARLTON SALOON FROM £5,280. ESTATE FROM £5,923. ALL PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS, CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VAT, BUT NOT DELIVERY OR NUMBER PLATES AND ARE BASED ON MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES. D.O.E. FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES METRIC EQUIVALENTS. CONSTANT 56 MPH: 17.3L/100KM. CONSTANT 75 MPH: 19.2L/100KM. URBAN CYCLE: 11.1L/100KM. PERFORMANCE FIGURES FROM 'MOTOR' MAGAZINE AND MANUFACTURER. FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST DEALER SEE YOUR YELLOW PAGES OR RING LUTON (0582) 426388. VAUXHALL RENTAL (0582) 21122 EXT. 8721. PERSONAL EXPORT ENQUIRIES (0582) 426197.



## HOME NEWS

## Schools law not broken, parents told by minister

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

There is no evidence that any local authority is breaking the law by failing to provide the quantity or quality of education required under the Education Act, 1944, Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

He was replying to a letter from the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE), a parents' lobby group, demanding that he name those local authorities which (ACE claimed) the recent report on education spending by the Schools Inspectorate (HMI) had indicated were in breach of the law.

The group further demanded that he use his powers under section 99 of the Act to compel those local authorities that were in default to fulfil their duties under the Act.

In a letter to ACE, Mr Carlisle said: "The evidence on which the HMI report is based does not justify default action on my part. I do not accept your assertion that local education authorities are failing in their statutory duties under sections 8 and 61 of the 1944 Education Act."

"Nor do I accept your view that the rate support grant settlement prevents local authorities from executing effectively 'the national policy for providing a varied and comprehensive education service in any area in accordance with section 1'."

"Such a service continues to be provided, though resources devoted to it are limited by what the country can afford. The HMI report reveals weaknesses only in certain instances."

Section 8 requires local authorities to provide schools "sufficient in number, character and equipment to afford for all pupils opportunities for education offering such variety of instruction training as may be desirable in view of their different abilities and aptitudes..."

Section 61 states that no fees shall be charged in respect of the admission to any maintained school, or the education provided in any such school. The High Court ruled yesterday that Hereford and Worcester had no legal right to charge for instrumental tuition in schools.

Mr Carlisle said that the Government did not intend to name any individual local authorities. Much of the material for the HMI report had been provided on the understanding that they would not be identified.

Miss Sheila Browne, senior chief inspector for schools, gave much the same answer when she was asked to "name names" while giving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts yesterday.

Pressed again, however, she said she would reflect further on what she should do. She was not sure who had the right to possession of the information. It was not a question of her being prevented from providing the information by the Secretary of State or anyone else.

Asked whether the inspectorate believed that any of the 15 per cent of authorities identified in the report as being the worst providers were breaking the law under section 8, Miss Browne said she did not know the legal definition of what constituted "sufficient schools."

The final report by the HMI on the effects on the education service in England of local authority expenditure policies in the financial year 1980-81 was officially published yesterday. Draft reports were made available to the press earlier this month. A report appeared in The Times on February 14.

Copies of the final report may be obtained free from the publications dispatch centre, Department of Education and Science, Honeywell Lane, Canon's Park, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 1AZ.

## Paisley activities over Dublin talks earn rebuke by Mr Atkins

From a Staff Reporter  
Belfast

The activities of the Rev Ian Paisley over the past few weeks prompted a thinly disguised and unprecedented rebuke yesterday by Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

He did not name Mr Paisley, but that was hardly necessary. "Recent events demonstrate that there are people in the province who seek to stir up fear and tension and to foster division," Mr Atkins said.

Mr Paisley was swift to recognize himself in the reference and within a few hours issued a denial. Tomorrow, he holds the fourth of his 13 "Carson" rallies. To the dismay of many, he has defeated the weather and is pulling in crowds of several thousands in support of his theme of an intended British "sell-out" over Ulster.

Mr Atkins insisted that all talk of deals, conspiracies and betrayals arising from the Dublin meeting between the Prime Minister of Britain and Ireland was unacceptable.

## MP withdraws backing for Ulster conference

By a Staff Reporter

A Labour MP yesterday withdrew his sponsorship of a conference next month challenging TUC policy on Northern Ireland.

The TUC general council yesterday endorsed a warning to trade councils that association with the conference would lead to de-registration.

The conference, under the title of "TUC Hands Off Ireland", is due to be held in County Wick on March 14 and seeks support for the H-Block hunger strikers. It is being organized by a group called the Smash the Prevention of Terrorism Act Campaign. Speakers will include representatives of Provisional Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

Mr Ernest Roberts, MP for Hackney, North and Stoke Newington, had agreed to sponsor it but yesterday his office issued a statement announcing his withdrawal.

Mr Roberts said he was not a member of the group and that he was not involved in the conference. He said he was not a member of the group and that he was not involved in the conference.

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land on December 3 was misinterpreted.

The falsehood that the Government wished to sell out the Northern Ireland community by doing a deal with the Republic was used as a pretext to rouse sectarian bitterness and hatred, Mr Atkins said. The constitutional status of Ulster was not one of the subjects to be covered in talks with the Dublin Government.

Nothing in the acts or attitude of the Government in any way justified the view that we are not fully committed to our continuing responsibility for the government of this particular part of the kingdom. There has, been, and will be, no betrayal.

Mr Paisley retorted that the fear in Ulster was caused by the joint communiqué issued after the Dublin summit. There was no escaping the fact that discussion of the constitutional relationships between Northern Ireland and Britain took place, and that Mr Atkins's comments were irreconcilable with the communiqué.

## MP withdraws backing for Ulster conference

Mr Ernest Roberts, MP for Hackney, North and Stoke Newington, had agreed to sponsor it but yesterday his office issued a statement announcing his withdrawal.

Mr Roberts said he was not a member of the group and that he was not involved in the conference. He said he was not a member of the group and that he was not involved in the conference.

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## Business as usual for the part-time soldier who is astonished to be alive

## UDR man survives his sixth terrorist attack

From Christopher Thomas  
Lisnakee, Co Fermanagh

Mr Roy Kells was on patrol last night in the freezing blackness of the Co Fermanagh countryside, and the bullet wound above his left eye was blue from the wind.

On Monday night, a gunman had fired five shots at him through a plate glass window, and Mr Kells admits he is astonished to be alive. All day Tuesday, friends were telephoning and calling at his drapery shop in the High Street in Lisnakee, less than 10 miles from the border with the Irish Republic.

Several nights each week he goes on patrol with the Ulster Defence Regiment, arriving home in the dark for a few hours sleep. His shop has been wrecked four times by terrorists, and once before he has escaped an IRA bullet.

Mr Kells, aged 44, married with four sons and a daughter, came close to being the sixty-fifth person to be murdered in Co Fermanagh in a decade. He was dressing the shop window, changing it from winter stock to spring, when he heard two cracks and looked round to see a young man crouched on the other side of the glass, a pistol held before him.

Mr Kells dived for cover as three more bullets split the glass and thudded into the wall behind him. One grazed his head and drew blood. A young girl and boy who were also working on the window display suffered cuts from flying glass.

The gunman escaped through a back door, dashing past customers and out of the back door to a waiting Volkswagen, which had been stolen earlier. It was abandoned just over a mile away.

There is almost always a helicopter ready for immediate action in the area. Recently a



Mr Roy Kells looking at the bullet holes in the window of his shop.

small helicopter base was constructed yards from the High Street, but on this occasion, official sources say, one was not instantly available.

Mr Kells was working at the shop as usual on Tuesday, going home for a bowl of tomato soup at lunchtime and returning within 20 minutes. He recalled his many friends who were not so lucky: the last victim was Mr Ernest Johnston, killed at his home on the Fermanagh

border in the autumn. He was a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

In March 1976, Mr Kells was haggling drapes in a nearby school. A bullet from a high velocity rifle smashed through the classroom window and buried itself in the wall just above a ladder he had been using.

His shop was bombed in 1972, 1975 and 1976, and was badly damaged by fire eight days

before the first murder attempt. It is not customary for survivors of terrorist attacks to be named in the media but within a few hours of the latest attempt he allowed himself to be named.

Mr Kells clearly has no intention of leaving. He inherited the business from his father and hopes to hand it down. His wife, Shirley, said: "We intend to carry on. You cannot let them force you out."

In brief  
Polish union man for TUC talks

The TUC has taken the initiative in establishing links with the independent trade union movement in Poland by inviting Mr Bogdan Lich, a leading official of the Solidarity organization, for talks in London next week.

Welcoming the visit as an opportunity to develop contact with the movement, the TUC general council emphasized its strong wish to respond positively to requests for solidarity for assistance.

## PC's bravery award

Police Constable Brian Olds who was shot and paralyzed in a raid on an off-licence, received his third commendation for bravery yesterday for his "courage, determination and devotion to duty" in chasing and arresting one of three men he had seen running from a house they had burgled in Finner, London, last March.

## Hunt for TB patient

The search for Mr James Cross, a wandering knife-grinder, who is suffering from a highly infectious strain of tuberculosis, has had to be resumed because a man thought to be Mr Cross and taken to a hospital was a tramp looking for a hot meal and a free bed for the night.

## Boys on murder charge

Two boys, aged 15 and 16, from Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland, were committed by Ashington Juvenile Court yesterday for trial at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court accused of murdering Paul Hedley, aged 12, also of Newbiggin, whose body was found in a ditch on December 27.

## £90,000 award

Dame Cicely Saunders, a London specialist in pain control of cancer, was yesterday awarded the £90,000 Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion. It will be presented by the Duke of Edinburgh at a ceremony in London in May.

## Sir Robin Day elected

Sir Robin Day, the political commentator and broadcaster, was elected chairman of the Hansard Society for Parliamentary Government, at the society's annual meeting in the House of Commons last night.

## Dublin disco fire victim

The St Valentine's Day disco fire in Dublin claimed its forty-seventh victim yesterday with the death in hospital of Mr Brendan O'Meara, aged 19, of Coolock, Dublin.

## Awards for 'Times' cartoonist

By a Staff Reporter  
Mark Boxer, "Mare" of The Times's feature page, yesterday won three awards out of six offered in a national Cartoonist of the Year competition.

He topped the lists for the political and social comment classes, and a representation of Mr William Rees-Mogg, editor of The Times, gained him the silver sub in the caricature category.

"Jak" of the London New Standard won the categories for cartoons with royal and sporting subjects and John Gashan of The Observer won the strip cartoon class.

The Glen Grant Cartoonists of the Year awards were made by Seagram-United Kingdom.

## More Whitehall efficiency reviews proposed

By Peter Hennessy  
The Government announced yesterday two new Whitehall efficiency reviews to be carried out by teams under Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of the Civil Service, and the Prime Minister's adviser on the elimination of waste.

The reviews cover the provision of support services for the Government's scientific, research and development establishments, and official administrative forms affecting the citizen and businesses. The idea is to make the research stations less costly and more efficient, and to improve the intelligibility and simplicity of the information required from the public.

The Civil Service Department will announce next month the scale of economies arising from last year's, trans-Whitehall Rayner scrutiny, as the exercises are officially described as "statistical services." About one statistical post in five will be abolished or a saving of £20m to the Exchequer.

The forms review team will be led by Mr Malcolm Grant, a

## Nationalize fire service is sought

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

The fire service should taken away from local government control and formed into a nationalized service, Chief and Assistant Chief Officers' Association said in a policy statement yesterday. The association called for a commission inquiry into service.

The statement was issued in response to a government consultative document, published last summer, on the future of the fire service.

"An impartial review of all activities associated with the provision of society from fire other emergencies is now a duty. There was no alternative if 'partisan opinion is to be subordinated to the overall needs of society' and if 'morale of the service was to be restored'."

If the fire service remains a part of local government, a vision should be made to ensure that the "safety of society not prejudiced by a change of political influence in employment."

The finance of any local fire service was heavily dependent on the political will of the authority concerned. "are concerned that political motivation in respect of fire service activity is very much indeed by comparison some other local government services and at a time of strain we believe this must result in a diminution of the service fire brigades throughout the country are able to provide."

What might be seen as saving by councils could be extra spending for the nation. Because of the unique position of some organizations within the community they needed a central government support.

The association was concerned that any judgments on the future structure of the fire service were made only after all financial implications had been assessed, "not simply those related to local government expenditure."

Chief fire officers blamed the low morale existing in the fire service on pay and condition of service. The association said the Government's consultative document, which examined the possibility of reducing the service.

The lack of a single authority for the fire service made ultimate accountability impossible. Sir Gervais Walker, chairman of the Association of County Councils, said the suggestion that councils should lose their responsibility for fire brigades was "a direct and irresponsible challenge to the democratic basis of local government services to the public." It was a first step towards a totalitarian state.

The forms inquiry will be completed by its report by early autumn, and will pursue two themes: the need to make them more easily understood by the public and to reduce the burden of information provided by Government on industry.

The research and development team will be led by Peter Alan Payne, a Civil Service Department principal, who will be helped by Mr Ian Beesly, member of the Rayner team, who will look at about 17,000 staff posts and eight parameters.

Mr Payne's report is due at the end of the year. The rest of both investigations will go to the Prime Minister by way of Sir Derek and Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council.

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## Joint road-rail authority for London proposed

By a Staff Reporter

London's entire public transport system, road and rail, should be the responsibility of a single body, new London Boroughs Association told the Commons select committee on transport yesterday.

Either a public transport authority should be created or the Greater London Council should be given new powers. Mr Simon Randall, chairman of the association's housing and works committee, said: "The complex problems of British Rail and London Transport need to be tackled jointly."

The new body, or the GLC, would need adequate powers and finance, the association said. Its area could extend to the line of the new orbital motorway, M25.

GLC officials have said in

oral evidence to the select committee that although the council would have a strong voice in any new authority, it was up to the Government to say it would be the sole voice.

The London Boroughs Association described the enforcement of traffic regulations as "grossly inadequate." The results were losses for industry, commerce and trade through congestion and delay.

Financial cuts in London's road building and the present level of spending would ensure that the capital's road system, described in an earlier report of the transport committee as a national scandal, would remain unchanged for many years.

New EEC proposals for increasing axle weights for heavy vehicles would bring even bigger difficulties, it said.

## Mr Coral freed on two charges

Bernard Coral, former managing director of the casinos division of the Coral Leisure group, was discharged from Highbury Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, when the prosecution offered no evidence against him on two charges.

His commitment for trial had been sought on charges of attempting to defraud the course of justice by concealing alleged offences by employees of the former casino division. They were both withdrawn and Mr Coral was granted the cost of the day's proceedings.

## Joe the Greek sent for trial

Jordanis Vratsides, known as Joe the Greek, unemployed and of no fixed address, was committed in custody for trial at the Central Criminal Court by magistrates at Highbury, London, yesterday.

Mr Vratsides, who has been extradited from Italy, is alleged to have attempted to murder four people between August 24, 1978, and January 10, 1979, to have committed seven robberies in the Greater London area totalling £30,584 between July 29, 1978, and January 15, 1979, and he faces two charges of attempted murder.

## No pressure on heavy lorries inquiry, MP told

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

Sir Arthur Armitage, who produced last year's report on lorries, people and the environment, firmly rejected suggestions yesterday that the inquiry had been set up as a means of bringing heavier lorries to Britain.

Giving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Transport, Sir Arthur stated that he and his colleagues had never been under any pressure from the Department of Transport. He also emphasized that his recommendation had been to allow heavier lorries, not bigger ones.

Container sizes and trailer lengths should be fixed at the present limits, he said.

Sir Arthur insisted that his report was not a package of proposals to enable the 44-ton lorry to be introduced.

"But if you ask me whether it is a package of suggested environmental improvements, if we are to live with the heavier lorry, the answer is yes," he said.

It was a mistake to believe that the new by-passes called for in the report were needed to accommodate heavier vehicles, he pointed out.

Such vehicles would, if anything, reduce the volume of traffic, but the by-passes were needed to cope with present

## Milk price controls must stay, minister says

By Our Agriculture  
Correspondent

Milk price controls had to stay, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, said yesterday. "We must clearly be careful to price ourselves out of our own market," he told members of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers in London.

He defended the system by which maximum retail prices are fixed by ministers. The

system is opposed by some right-wing Conservatives who want milk distribution to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

"Very few of those arguing for such a review come from within the industry. It seems to me that the onus is on them to demonstrate that the changes they would like to see would not have any ill effects on consumers, distributors and of course producers."

But they remain longer out of work because they need a higher wage to support their families or because they are reluctant to accept a job that pays only slightly more than they are receiving in benefits. Asians are badly affected in those respects because their families tend to be larger.

The report was financed by the Department of Employment and the Manpower Services Commission. It is based on a survey of 2,450 unemployed people from various areas, including 1,550 members of ethnic minorities.

On average, the income of unemployed men has fallen to 46 per cent of their previous earnings, the report finds. Only 3 per cent of white men and 5 per cent of minority group men were receiving more than benefits than they had earned.

Yet among whites and minorities, the previous pay of the unemployed was well below the average for manual workers.

Those who have been unemployed for a long time are just as active in looking for work as those who became unemployed recently. The evidence is that people continue to be unemployed because of things they cannot change and not because they have made little effort to find work.

## Unemployed who get high benefits try harder to find work

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

The higher the benefits the unemployed receive, the more they want to find work, according to a report today by the Policy Studies Institute. "This relationship is the opposite of what you might think it would be," Mr David J. Smith, author of the report, *Unemployment and Racial Minorities*, says.

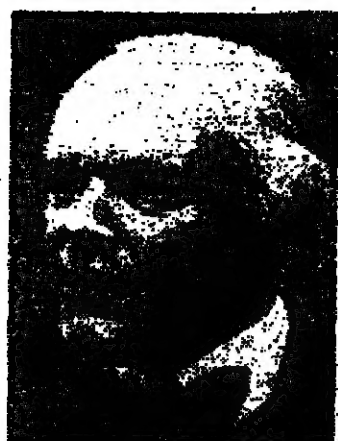
The reason given in the report is that those with large families find it harder to manage on their benefits than those with small ones. Those with



HOME NEWS

# Third 'Observer' owner in five years

Staff Reporter  
The Observer yesterday gained a third owner in five years. The new owner, Mr Robert Anderson, chairman of Atlantic Richfield, has bought the newspaper from Mr Donald Trefford, editor of the paper, for £1.5m. The Observer is the only newspaper with one of the greatest international circulation of any British publication. The newspaper was born in the aftermath of the French Revolution, on December 4, 1791, and has since shown its greatest strength in the early years of the century, when it was a leading voice of opposition to government. It was the first newspaper to be published in the United Kingdom on a daily basis, and it was the first to be published in the United States. The newspaper's circulation has grown steadily over the years, and it is now one of the most widely read newspapers in the world. The new owner, Mr Anderson, is a prominent businessman and a member of the House of Lords. He has been chairman of Atlantic Richfield since 1975, and he has been a member of the House of Lords since 1979. He is also a member of the Council of the British Newspaper Guild. The Observer is a weekly newspaper published in London. It is known for its high standards of journalism and for its editorial independence. The newspaper is owned by Atlantic Richfield, a multinational oil and gas company. The newspaper's circulation is approximately 1.5 million copies per week. The newspaper's revenue is approximately £10 million per year. The newspaper's profit is approximately £2 million per year. The newspaper's assets are approximately £10 million. The newspaper's liabilities are approximately £5 million. The newspaper's net worth is approximately £5 million.



Mr Robert Anderson, chairman of Atlantic Richfield.



Mr Donald Trefford, editor of 'The Observer'.

Mr Astor remained editor until 1975, and by then the newspaper was suffering from financial losses. After a long dispute during that year, substantial reductions in manning were achieved but were

not enough to end the newspaper's difficulties. So, in November, 1976, the newspaper was sold to Mr Trefford, who had been its editor since 1975. After a number of weeks, figures had been mentioned as

as possible buyers. The Observer was taken over by Atlantic Richfield. The new owners promised to maintain the paper's editorial traditions and journalistic standards but they were unable to stem the losses. If the newspaper's editorial voice has become less distinct in recent years, its immediate difficulties have been most apparent in its industrial relations. Twice since the Atlantic Richfield takeover the closure of the paper has been threatened because of industrial disputes. Last summer it was estimated that the company had spent £20m on the Observer, and this winter, with the recession deepening, there was no sign of any significant improvement. While the closure of the Sunday Times for 11 months in 1978 gave the newspaper a big increase in circulation, the gain was only temporary and last year it slipped into third position among the quality Sunday newspapers, behind the Sunday Times and the Sunday Telegraph.

## Oil chief to stay on as newspaper chairman

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Mr Robert Anderson, chairman of Atlantic Richfield (Arco), said in Los Angeles last night: "My discussions with Mr Roland 'Tiny' Rowland, chief executive of Lomrho, have convinced me of his personal desire and interest in maintaining the high standards of journalism, its quality, integrity and independence, which have been the hallmarks of The Observer for nearly two centuries, and which Atlantic Richfield has endeavoured to support since it acquired The Observer over four years ago."

## Households better off but regional lifestyles vary

### North tops egg-eating league and Scotland is ahead on bread

By Frances Gibb

Life for the average household in the United Kingdom is materially better than a decade ago, with more people having a telephone, central heating and a refrigerator, according to a survey published today. Against a background of a doubling in unemployment, the proportion of households with a telephone doubled to two thirds of the total and twice as many households now about half have central heating. But the extent to which a household matches the national average depends entirely on where it is. In Wales and Northern Ireland, half or less of the households have a telephone and in the North, Yorkshire and Humberside, less than half have a car, compared with 53 per cent nationally. The Welsh eat more butter and potatoes, the Scots more bread and Northerners more bacon, eggs, cakes and biscuits than any other region, while residents in the South-east and East Angles eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and cheese.

Those in the East Midlands are the highest.

Scotland and Northern Ireland have the best availability of hospital beds, at 11 per 1,000 people, compared with the worst availability of 6 per 1,000 in the Oxford Area Health Authority. Wales has the biggest incidence of death from heart disease: 535 per 100,000 population, which is 20 per cent higher than elsewhere. It also has the largest number of National Health Service prescriptions issued per person a year, a total of 8.7 against the average of 6.8. The Welsh also collect £50.39 in sickness benefit per person, twice the English average of £25.23.

Lifestyles vary: in the North, with the highest average gross weekly wage, £97.83, except for the South-east, the average person eats just over five ounces of bacon and at least four eggs a week more than anyone else in the country. The North also has the highest birthrate for women aged between 15 and 19 (38 per 1,000 compared with 31 per 1,000 nationally) and one quarter of women marrying were under 20 years old. In Yorkshire and Humberside, people spend less in a week than anywhere else. Weekly household spending in 1978-79 was £78.54, almost 10 per cent below the national average. The region boasts the highest proportion of households with washing machines, the lowest average house prices (£15,003 compared with £19,925 nationally in 1979) and more benefits for pensioners, including assistance with television licences and home helps, than elsewhere. East Angles has the fastest-growing population in the country, chiefly because of people moving to the area. Although earnings are relatively low, an attraction is that it has the country's highest proportion of its dwellings, 18 per cent, built since 1970. Households in general are more materially prosperous there than elsewhere. East Angles has the highest proportion with central heating. One of the sharpest contrasts is between the South-east and Northern Ireland. The former remains top of the regions for earnings, with an average gross weekly wage for men of £108.50 (£101.40 nationally). The South-east has the highest average income per household and the highest average weekly expenditure. It has the lowest unemployment (5 per cent in July last year), the highest average house prices (£25,000). Northern Ireland is still the poorest region in terms of gross domestic product and personal income and five of its districts had unemployment rates of 20 per cent or more in 1980. More than one in five households in 1978-79 had a gross weekly income of less than £30. Regional Trends-1981 edition (Government Statistical Service, £11.95 net. Stationery Office).

## Lomrho started vast expansion in the 1970s

Financial Staff  
Lomrho employed 350 in central and southern and made profits of 70 on a turnover of £4m. It was the company's first year. Mr Roland 'Tiny' Rowland, who had been managing director since 1965, the company was a profit of £1.8m on a turnover of £32m. It had offices in Rhodesia, Zambia, and South Africa in

transport, motors, construction, farming and publishing. In 1971 the company faced a liquidity crisis brought on by the arrest of the group's finance director and other executives in South Africa on charges, later withdrawn, in connection with a failed bid by Lomrho in 1968 to take over minority stakes in certain subsidiaries in South Africa. The resulting crisis, known as

"The Lomrho Affair", led to the remark by Mr Edward Heath, the Prime Minister, about the "unacceptable face of capitalism". During the 1970s, Lomrho embarked on a massive expansion programme in this country, including in 1977, a 24 per cent stake in Scottish Universal Investments (Suits) from Sir Hugh Fraser and his family trusts. After buying a further

5 per cent Lomrho launched a full takeover bid and the deal, as referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Suits acquired George Outram and Company, publishers of The Glasgow Herald and Evening Times and several Scottish weekly newspapers in 1964. It added more weekly newspapers in 1972.

## BBC urged boost IF output

With Gosling

Radio should aim to all its output available by 1990 and replace accordingly, a working party report on service radio in the and 1990s recommends discussion document also needs that a broadcast centre exclusively for built in inner London at more use be made of service programmes in music network. report sets out a number of points but no decisions taken on those until have been received BBC staff and from red parties outside the union. most important conclusion that the BBC should four national radio stations and regional radio as a network of local in order to do justice affairs. Such coverage, port says, would ensure rate public broadcasting until the end of the 1990, the BBC should re-engineered all its existing, and have extended coverage as far as possible by building some of or so extra transmitters. most controversial option was the fourth, described by Mr Aubrey Singer, ing director of BBC as the most interesting and one that would need useful though. is proposed by a group ocal radio and the world and says that Radios 1 should be for music and 2; Radio 3, should carry drama; and there should ational public affairs net- and a local home service, icking to the Broadcasting Guild in London, Mr said the report repre- agenda for the 1990s; important but it was a re-forming radio than a re-taking document.

## School trip 'was not fun cruise'

From Our Correspondent Reading

Mr Gerald Hughes, chairman of Berkshire County Council's education committee, suspended himself from office yesterday pending an official inquiry into a Mediterranean school cruise on which councillors and officers travelled free. Speaking the day after flying home from the two-week trip, Mr Hughes said it had not been a "fun cruise" and criticism had been uninformed and speculative. Mr Hughes and his wife Edith, also a county councillor, were among 14 "administrative staff" on the cruise who travelled in free berths paid for by P&O. The 940 Berkshire school children and 63 teachers on board paid £270 each. Mr Peter Edwards, Berkshire's director of education, and his wife also travelled free. Yesterday Mr Hughes met Mr Robert Gash, the council's chief executive, who has been ordered to conduct an official inquiry. Afterwards Mr Hughes said: "I have decided that the appropriate course is to suspend myself from all activities and duties as chairman to free myself to deal with the inquiry." "But I would like to emphasize this was not a fun cruise but hard work. The administrative party travelled on the strict understanding that we would be spared more of the duties on board." "My wife and Mr Edwards's wife both acted as mother figures to the children, apart from doing their share of dormitory work and supervision of the canteen." Mr Hughes, a retail chemist, said that because of the publicity surrounding the trip his shop staff had been abused by customers. "My shop windows have been daubed with slogans and stink bombs let off inside", he said.

## Ps reject appeal on sex op law loophole

chard Evans

mentary Staff  
shops might avoid proposed on indecent displays by described as art galleries. Dr Shirley Sum- ill, Labour MP for x and an opposition sman on home affairs, yesterday. ler the Indecent Displays rol) Bill a person publicly ing indecent matter will be to prosecution, but will not apply where it played in an art gallery isum, and is visible only within the premises. Summerskill said at the standing committee that as worried by the exemp-

tion because there was no definition of art gallery or museum. Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove and the sponsor of the Bill, said that art galleries and museums dealt in material that was of a limited nature. The sort of devices display in sex shops could not be mistaken. "If we try to give any elaborate definition to what constitutes an art gallery or museum we are going to get into a quagmire." "We would not necessarily stop what is at worst a very small potential loophole." An amendment to delete the exemption from the Bill was rejected by 11 votes to three.

## urgeon is fined 10 for stealing violins

John Douglas Welch, aged senior registrar of cardiac surgery at the London ital, was convicted at lesex Crown Court yesterday of stealing two violins, a r and a Chanot, and of g and obtaining £200 £800 by deception from A. Beare Ltd, violin ts, of Soho. each of the two theft es he was fined £250 and ch deception charge £25. was ordered to pay £1,400 ensation to Mrs Barbara ton, owner of the Voller 2, and £300 of prosecution Dr Welch, of Lower id, Cokeron, Milton es, Buckinghamshire had ed not guilty.

## Man aged 88 escapes driving ban

From Our Correspondent Wolverhampton

Frederick Simms, aged 88, escaped a driving ban after telling magistrates at Warley, West Midlands, yesterday that it would interfere with his hobby of photographing wildlife. He was absolutely shattered if I lost my licence", Mr Simms, said. Mr Simms, of Moorfield, Belbroughton, Hereford and Worcester, admitted failing to report an accident and was fined £5. His car was in collision with a bus. After hearing that Mr Simms drove about 8,000 miles a year pursuing his photographic interests, the bench decided not to disqualify him or order him to take another driving test.

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- 8 I need to get to Hong Kong in a hurry.
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## HOME NEWS

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST  
SUTTON

Harry Secombe, the comedian, outside the church at Sutton, Surrey, that will become an arts centre named after him. A trust aims to raise £250,000 for the project, to supplement a £500,000 council grant.

Edinburgh Festival's  
quality survives cuts

By Martin Huckerby  
Music Reporter

Cologne Opera, San Francisco Ballet and the Greek theatre company Amphitheatro are among the guests at this year's Edinburgh Festival, which runs from August 16 to September 5. Financial difficulties mean that there will be fewer events this year than in 1980, perhaps 150 this year as against 175 last year, but the festival organizers believe that the quality of the programme has been maintained.

The festival will open with Bach's St Matthew Passion, with the London Symphony Orchestra under Claudio Abbado. There will be eleven orchestras in all, including the Norddeutscher Rundfunk Orchestra under Klaus Tennstedt and the Camerata Lysy with Yehudi Menuhin. After last year's writers' conference, there will be a dramaticists' conference, while the visual arts will include two exhibitions from the Museum of Modern Art in New York, American Abstract Expressionism and an exhibition of contemporary American photography. Mirrors and Windows, Cologne Opera will present the Baroque opera, with Alicia Nafé, Leo Nucci and Luigi Alva, and Mozart's La Clemenza di Tito, with Brigitte Fassbender and Werner Hollweg; the Cologne Opera Studio

will perform Thea Musgrave's *The Voice of Ariadne*. San Francisco Ballet will give two performances of *Les Femmes d'Alger* by Michael Smuin, as well as two programmes of shorter works.

There will be a visit from Dan Wagoner and Dancers from New York and the London Contemporary Dance Theatre will be in residence during the festival, presenting a new full-length ballet by Robert Cohan, with music by Carl Davis.

Drama will include two productions from Iran on the ill-fated attempt to rescue the American hostages and from the Iraqis war about the rescue of a trapped ship, in which he swam out to sea. The television won the current affairs award for its TV Eye programme on Gdansk, while the BBC's *Panorama* programme received the investigative journalism award. The daily news magazine was awarded by BBC North, for *Look North*, and Associated Television for *ATV Today*. The regional news story award went to *Harlech*, television for its reporting of the St Paul's riot in Bristol. Gerry Rodin of the BBC won the award for television camera work of the year and a special judge's prize, went to Nick Downie for *"Afghanistan—With the Rebels"*.

## Britain's welfare states attacked

By a Staff Reporter

Five different welfare states need to be reformed if poverty and inequality in Britain are to be reduced, a Labour MP argues in a book published today.

Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead, identifies a tax benefit welfare state; a company welfare state, providing "perks" ranging from free food to pensions; an unearned income welfare state; and a private market welfare state, involving the buying of such welfare services as education and health, as well as the traditional welfare state.

Introducing his book at a meeting in the House of Commons yesterday, Mr Field said: "Most of postwar politics has

been based on the assumption that welfare programmes can be paid for out of economic growth. This is no longer a realistic assumption."

In the book, he suggests a wide range of fiscal reforms, including tax allowances at the standard rate only, cash ceilings on tax benefits such as mortgage interest relief, and the reintroduction of an exemption scheme.

To redistribute from the company welfare state, he suggests that companies should pay for fringe benefits out of income that has already been taxed, and that the gains derived from such perks should be brought within the tax net.

Reform of the unearned income welfare state would be

brought about by a wealth tax. Mr Field believes that would lead to the private market welfare state withering away. He does not advocate outlawing expenditure on private medicine and health services.

The resources from such reforms could provide a new increase in child benefit, a new unemployment benefit, a one-parent family allowance, a new disability benefit, pensioner credits and rent allowances.

Mr Field, a former director of the Child Poverty Action Group, believes that his reforms would greatly diminish the state's power over people's lives and cut direct personal taxation.

Welfare in Britain: Freedom, Welfare and the State (Fontana, £2.50).

Minister seeks a  
better deal  
for air travellers

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

International trade has become more open but the civil aviation industry was one of the last bulwarks of protectionism, Lord Trefgarne, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, told a conference on European aviation at the Royal Aeronautical Society in London yesterday.

Civil aviation was a mature industry yet it was still not able to offer the products to the consumer. The Government believed the tightly regulated fare and routing system "does not result in the best deal for airline passengers nor, in the long run, is it in the interests of the airlines themselves".

European airlines must be efficient and productive to survive. Maintaining such a highly protected European market would not help them achieve the efficiency and the productivity they needed.

The Government wanted to see a measure of freedom for the airlines to offer fares based on commercial market forces. Authorities might have to check on some fares to see that they were generally in line with costs and that there was no abuse of monopoly, Lord Trefgarne said.

Dr T. J. O'Driscoll, executive director of the European Travel Commission, said that international tourism in and to Europe would almost double by 1990.

Private sector link 'might  
improve NHS efficiency'

By a Staff Reporter

The National Health Service and certain social services are encouraged in a new booklet to consider joining forces with the private sector to improve efficiency.

The document, *Care in Action*, which was published yesterday by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, is a handbook for the members of the new district health authorities, and for local authority social services committee members.

It repeats the Government's emphasis on improving services for the growing numbers of elderly, and for the mentally ill and handicapped, and says maternity services and care of the newborn are priorities in the face of recent criticism from the select committee on social services.

The National Health Service is failing to meet the demand for male and female sterilization, according to a report by the Birch Control Trust.

The report, based on a survey of area health authorities in 1978, shows that in almost two thirds of the 30 that provided detailed information, women wanting sterilization had to wait six months or longer. Only six

had a waiting time of less than three months.

Mrs Jane Roe, the author, said the number of NHS operations had almost certainly risen, but from anecdotal evidence the waiting lists had risen too. Sterilization was a cost-effective means of birth control in the long term.

Sterilization and the NHS (Birch Control Trust, 27-35 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RJ; 90p and postage).

## Sterilization delays alleged

By a Staff Reporter

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## Law Report February 25 1981

## When a resident landlord dies

**Landlord and Another v. Sloane**  
Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Fraser of Tullyhewan, Lord Russell of Kilowen, Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Roskill  
(Speakers delivered February 19)

Under the Rent Act 1977, where a resident landlord granted a contractual tenancy of part of the house in which the landlord himself lived, the tenant was not protected by the Act, so that when the landlord died his executor was entitled to bring the contractual tenancy to an end by notice, and after the 12-month period to be given by the Act, the executor, under paragraph 1, could obtain possession against the tenant. The tenant did not become a statutory tenant even if at the end of the 12-month period there was no resident landlord.

The House of Lords, Lord Roskill dissenting, allowed an appeal by the personal representatives of Miss M. T. Newman, the deceased resident landlord of 2, Broadly, a tenement dwelling house, after the executor by a resident landlord was not a protected tenancy, so long as the landlord continued to reside in a part of the building; and the landlord's personal possession of the premises had been lost.

The case when a resident landlord died during the currency of a tenancy was the present was dealt with in Schedule 2. Since the requirement (section 12(1)) that the landlord must remain resident until the termination of the contract was not complied with, it was held that the executor introduced for the benefit of his estate a period of "disregard". Paragraph 1(c) stated that, in the case of the interpretation, all the provisions of the Act were to apply as if the period of "disregard" were a period of not more than 12 months from the date when the landlord's interest vested in them.

The purpose was to confer on the personal representatives the same remedies in respect of the tenancy as if the landlord were still alive. The policy behind the provisions was reasonably clear. First, if the Act was to work and if the executor of a house were to be introduced to the executor, it was essential that the owner should be able to regular possession of the portion let.

Secondly, the executor should be able to regular possession of the portion let. His house was probably his major asset, and if he could not sell it at its full value, he would not be able to provide for his family. It was held that, subject only to the qualification that he must remain in residence until the tenancy came to an end, a protected tenancy could be regularized. The executor was not to be able to realize the house. So though in fact they might not be resident, the executor could regular possession, and sell. Anything which prevented them from doing that would be unjust to the landlord's estate and would confer an unwarranted benefit on the tenant.

On the other hand, lettings by resident landlords of part of a large purpose-built block of flats were removed from full protection so long as the landlord remained resident. By section 1 of the 1977 Act a letting of a "dwelling house", which included a part of a building, was a "protected tenancy". By section 2, when a protected tenancy came to an end, the tenant became a "statutory tenant" so long as he occupied the dwelling house as his residence. Thus a statutory tenancy arose only by conversion from a protected tenancy. Where a resident landlord died, the case of "resident landlords" was an exception carved out of that structure. It was dealt with in section 12 and Schedule 2. Broadly, a tenancy of a dwelling house, let by a resident landlord, was not a protected tenancy, so long as the landlord continued to reside in a part of the building; and the landlord's personal possession of the premises had been lost.

The case when a resident landlord died during the currency of a tenancy was the present was dealt with in Schedule 2. Since the requirement (section 12(1)) that the landlord must remain resident until the termination of the contract was not complied with, it was held that the executor introduced for the benefit of his estate a period of "disregard". Paragraph 1(c) stated that, in the case of the interpretation, all the provisions of the Act were to apply as if the period of "disregard" were a period of not more than 12 months from the date when the landlord's interest vested in them.

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The only provision which led Lord Justice Bridge and the other members of the majority to hold that that was not the effect of the Act was that contained in Schedule 2, paragraph 3: "Throughout any period which, by virtue of paragraph 1 above, falls to be disregarded for the purpose of determining whether the condition in section 12(1)(c) is fulfilled with respect to a tenancy, no order shall be made for possession of the dwelling house subject to that tenancy other than an order which might be made if that tenancy were, or as the case may be, had been a regulated tenancy."

Where a resident landlord died, the case of "resident landlords" was an exception carved out of that structure. It was dealt with in section 12 and Schedule 2. Broadly, a tenancy of a dwelling house, let by a resident landlord, was not a protected tenancy, so long as the landlord continued to reside in a part of the building; and the landlord's personal possession of the premises had been lost.

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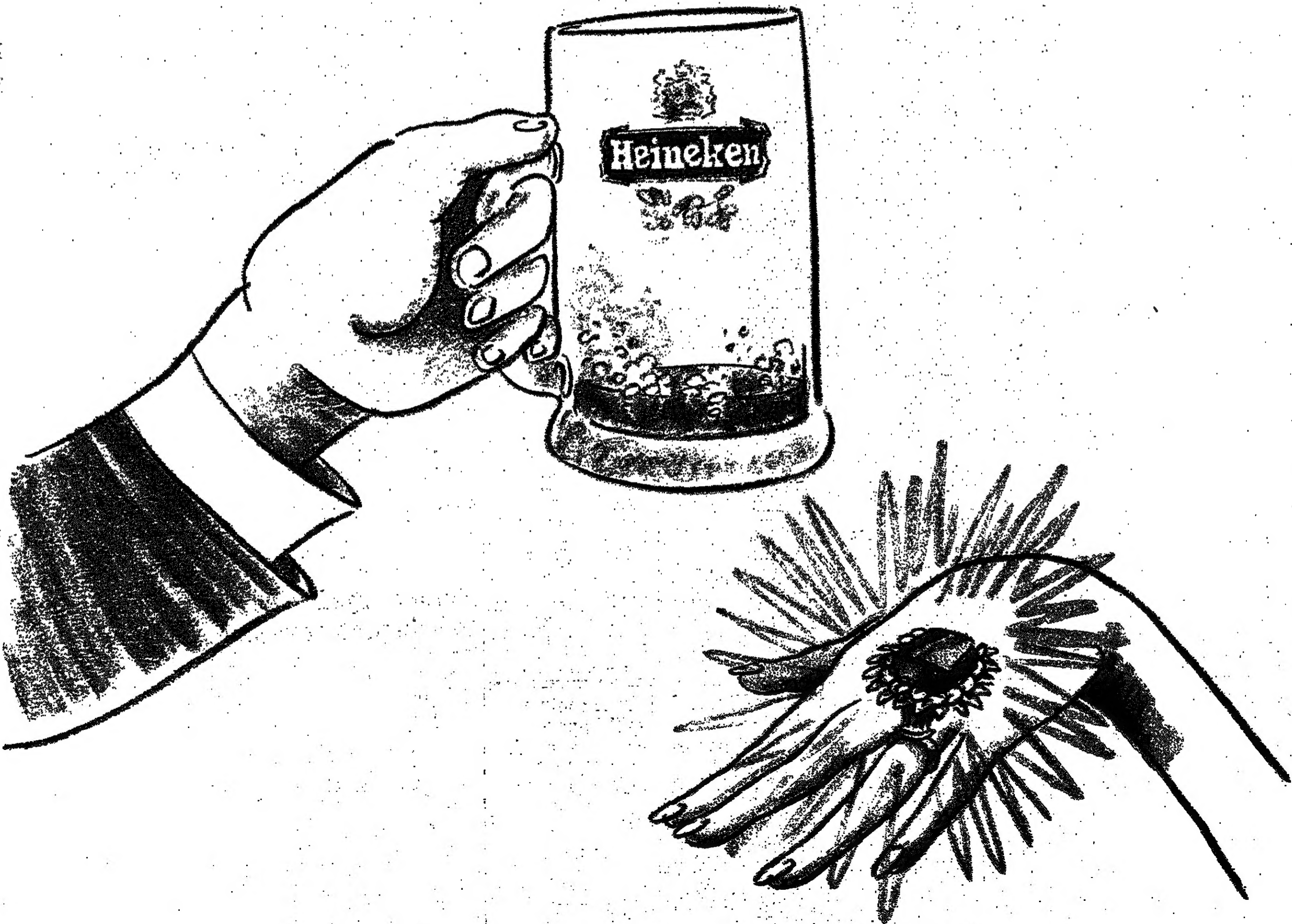
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## WEST EUROPE

## Earthquake death toll rises to 13 in Greece

From Mario Modiano  
Athens, Feb 25

The official death toll in the earthquakes that rocked southern and central Greece during the night rose to 13 today. It is likely to go higher as rescue teams search the debris of fallen buildings.

Five members of the staff of a vacant eight-floor seaside hotel - which collapsed at Vrahau, west of Corinth, are feared buried under the wreckage. Four other unoccupied hotels in the vicinity of Corinth also collapsed. The owner of one of them was rescued alive but injured from falling rubble.

The total number of injured rose to several hundreds, but only 57 people needed to go to hospital. About 3,000 buildings were damaged.

A cluster of uninhabited islets in the Gulf of Corinth, known as the Balcynids, was the epicentre of the shocks, according to the Athens Observatory. The first tremor, which came at 8.54 pm GMT, measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale. It was followed by a second tremor at 2.30 am GMT measuring 6.3.

Worst hit was Perahora, a village north of Corinth. Three people were killed there, and more than 150 of its quaint, old houses became uninhabitable. The Army has pitched tents to shelter the homeless. Perahora, once the base of a British archaeological expedition in the early 1930s, was visited today by Mr George Rallis, the Prime Minister, who toured the stricken area by helicopter.

The antiquities stored in the museums of Perahora and



The rubble of the Apollo Hotel at Loutraki, west of Athens, which was ripped apart by the earthquake.

Corinth remained intact; but there was some damage in the museums of Athens and at the acropolis, where a number of ancient vases fell off their stands and broke.

Professor George Dantas, the director of the Acropolis, said that for the first time since the earthquake of 1896, pieces of marble became detached from the columns of the Par-

theonon last night. The area was cordoned off for the safety of visitors.

He said there were signs of slight displacement in two column drums of the western colonnade and the ceiling of the Partheonon, but there was no immediate danger. Some architectural members of the Erechtheion temple had also moved slightly during the tremors.

Athenians today seemed paralysed by the fear of new earthquakes. After last night's panic, which drove frightened people to public parks, squares and hills in their neighbourhoods, most people failed to turn up for work. Banks were understaffed and many shops remained closed. Damage to buildings in Athens was slight.

The observatory tried to dispel persistent rumours that

another stronger earthquake was imminent by stating that geological statistics for the Athens region indicated that such an earthquake would be extremely improbable.

But the observatory also said that until midday today the seismographs had recorded 465 after-tremors of more than 3 points on the Richter Scale, eight of them measuring between 4.5 and 6.3.

## Top Spanish general who was closely connected with the King is dismissed

From Richard Wigg  
Madrid, Feb 25

General Alfonso Armada Comyn has been relieved of his post as Deputy Chief of the Spanish Army's General Staff, high ranking military sources confirmed here today to EFE, the state news agency. The move came after Monday's failed putsch.

The general, aged 60 and one of the country's top 10 generals in active service, has been known as a former close collaborator for many years of King Juan Carlos. Suspicion falling on him inevitably heightens the unease felt about the attempted plot against Spanish democracy.

According to some versions, General Armada was useful above all to the plotters because of his reputation as a "king's man". But it was General Armada who with General Aramburu, the director-general of the civil guard, who negotiated the surrender of the leaders of the putsch yesterday at the rebels' request, again according to some versions.

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo tonight received, under the overwhelming impact of Monday's assault on Parliament, an endorsement as Spain's Prime Minister by 186 votes to 158, or 10 more than an absolute majority. The Catalan regionalists, the centre-right-wing Democratic Coalition and three independents voted for him.

General Armada is the second army general Spain's caretaker Government has moved against. After a meeting taken earlier by Señor Adolfo Suárez, the outgoing Prime Minister, the arrest was officially announced at mid-

night of Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, captain-general of the Valencia military region. He had been flown on for an interview with Lieutenant-General José Gabeiras, Chief of the Army General Staff.

Valencia was the only military region in the country after the seizure of the Spanish Parliament and the taking of 350 MPs and ministers where the army authorities declared a state of emergency and took over. General Milans had his tanks on the streets within minutes of the seizure of Parliament.

The Cortés (Parliament) resume today, the chamber still pockmarked by the shots from automatic weapons and pistols fired by the civil guards under the command of Colonel Antonio Tejero, to proceed to vote into office Señor Calvo Sotelo as Spain's second democratic Prime Minister. This election was under way on Monday when the civil guards erupted into the chamber.

Besides Colonel Tejero, who is now under arrest here awaiting interrogation by the Advocate-General's branch more than 15 other serving officers have been detained.

Señor Calvo Sotelo, who hailed the king as the upholder of Spain's democracy on Monday night, pledged after the failed putsch to work "to ensure that all organs of the state in future achieve the same degree of democratic maturity with mechanisms which defend our liberties and security".

Queen Elizabeth has sent a personal message congratulating the king on his firm attitude that proved so decisive



Señor Calvo Sotelo, confirmed as Spain's Prime Minister, embraces Lieutenant-General Manuel Gutiérrez Mellado.

## Water cannon used against atom protesters

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Feb 25

Police used water cannon to disperse protesters at the controversial Brokdorf nuclear power station site near Hamburg today in a forecast of clashes expected at the weekend.

Fears of violence are mounting as anti-nuclear protesters all over the country prepare to defy a ban on a huge demonstration at Brokdorf.

A local court banned the protest after receiving evidence that extremist groups were planning to use what was intended to be a peaceful rally by some 50,000 people as an occasion for violence.

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## Cool head in crisis of Madrid democracy

From Our Own Correspondent  
Madrid, Feb 25

The priority for Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, who was confirmed as Spain's Prime Minister by the Cortés (Parliament) tonight, is to reestablish full respect for the authority of the civilian democratic government.

The new Prime Minister is typical of the businessmen turned politician who emerged to prominence during the transition from a moribund Francoism to parliamentary democracy.

Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic affairs, the Suárez Government that resigned on January 29, Señor Calvo Sotelo, who is 54, comes from an influential Madrid family.

He is a nephew of José Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish monarchist's parliamentary leader during the Second Republic whose assassination, blamed on the left, helped precipitate the Nationalist uprising in July 1936, which opened the civil war.

Señor Calvo Sotelo's own political roots lie in that monarchist and subsequently Christian Democrat camp.

Unidentified with the opposition factions, he was above all nominated by his party, as a unifying force on the advice of Señor Adolfo Suárez, the outgoing Prime Minister. He was always closely associated with Señor Suárez's approach and the first Suárez Government, where he was Public Works Minister, to organize the UCD, which triumphed in Spain's first democratic elections after Franco in June 1977.

Electing for a Madrid constituency, he became leader of the UCD in the Cortés. Before he took over as Señor Suárez's chief economic minister in September last year, after the failure of the economic plans of Señor Fernando Abril Martorell, Señor Calvo Sotelo was for more than two years Spain's Minister for Relations with the European Community.

His chief qualities, those of an efficient administrator able to keep a cool head when faced by complex problems, were developed during a diversified career in the high echelons of the private chemicals and synthetics industries and banking and the state railways.

member states give large amounts of aid to their farmers in addition to what they spend jointly on agriculture in the EEC budget.

The rule of thumb observed in Brussels is that such national assistance is permissible within the limits of the Treaty of Rome, which empowers the Commission to keep all state subsidies under review and prohibit those judged incompatible with the EEC's fair trade rules.

If France fails to come up with an acceptable explanation, the Commission must under the treaty order it to "abolish or alter the offending aid measures within a specified period of time."

The case arises out of a decision by the French Government last December to grant more than 4,000m francs (about £300m) of assistance to its farmers to offset loss of income caused by rising production costs.

It appears that the Commission is challenging the legality of about half that sum. All

## World View

by Arrigo Levi

## Bonn awaits a final test of US policy

Bonn

At the moment when the crisis of détente and the world economic crisis have badly shaken many of the certainties which have made West Germany one of the most stable and successful of industrial democracies, the problem of relations with President Reagan's "new America" occupies a large space in the thoughts of West German leaders.

This is a country which, in spite of its great successes, still feels uncomfortably provincial, still divided and without a peace treaty, with the Soviet Army on its borders and its historical capital still separate from the body of "real Germany".

So the special link with America remains, more than ever, the ultimate guarantee of the existence of the Federal Republic. After the many frustrations of the Carter years, what do German leaders in Bonn expect from the new president in Washington?

One of Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor's most trusted advisers says: "On the whole, we have an impression that European-American cooperation will improve, as compared with the Carter period, both in atmosphere, substance and continuity. It will not be easier but more reliable. The new Administration seems to be calculable, which was not the case with Carter."

When Herr Schmidt came back from his first meeting with Mr Reagan (already elected, but not yet at the White House) he told his colleagues in Bonn that "they had to forget everything that had been said during the campaign." He felt that Mr Reagan had a good talent for selecting qualified individuals for top positions, and that he was ready to continue the strategic arms limitation (SALT) process.

In this on the whole positive assessment the presence of Mr Haig at the State Department plays a very important role. Mr Haig is seen as a "European first" man, and his experience of European affairs is felt to be unequalled. "There has never before been an American Secretary of State (another of Herr Schmidt's advisers tells me) with such profound exposure to European problems of German Social Democrats and of Italian Christian Democrats."

On Europe's responsibilities outside the Nato area, the Germans will show themselves ready to "fill the void" possibly to be left by the Americans in Europe. They will offer the necessary transit bases to an American rapid deployment force in the Middle East, and they seem ready to increase their naval responsibilities in the Atlantic (some upper limits to German naval armaments put by the WEU treaty being now finally lifted).

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But the Germans feel that there are still conflicts and rivalries at the top in Washington. They think that "the new Administration has not yet reached the point of finally articulating and defining its foreign policy or its work programme."

Even though 50 per cent of the population of El Salvador is illiterate even today, the country was sufficiently educated and politicized by 1972 to embark upon a course of political and social reform which is the direct origin of its present desperate troubles.

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## OVERSEAS

## Washington chooses El Salvador to make a stand against communism in Central America

By Dan van der Vat

El Salvador, the tiniest state in Latin America, now finds itself in uncomfortable and unaccustomed proximity to the centre of world attention because the new American Administration has rapidly developed a passionate interest in the outcome of the savage civil war there.

The Americans say it is the target of a classic communist takeover attempt, supported actively by the Soviet Union and its allies, and coordinated by Cuba on their behalf. Washington says it will not let this happen and is keeping all its options open on action to prevent it.

Given the increased tension between the two superpowers and the manifest strategic insignificance of El Salvador, the scale and intensity of the American diplomatic effort to persuade its sceptical allies of the burning importance of the issue require explanation.

A recent revolution produced a radical leftist government in Nicaragua, now accused by Washington of acting as principal staging post for arms supplies to left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador. All this could mean that the Americans fear another demonstration of the domino theory, as in Indo-China, but this time on their own doorstep.

Alternatively, the real target of the Reagan Administration muscle-flexing might be Cuba, that perennially irritating communist blemish in an otherwise hemisphere, which Washington has already threatened to blockade unless it stops aiding the Salvadorean guerrillas.

The explanation for the American demarche could be altogether simpler and there are grounds for belief that it is. Conquered for Spain by Pedro de Alvarado in 1526, El Salvador gained independence in 1829 and soon fell into the classic mould of the banana republic (its principal crop is in fact coffee, which accounts for 50 per cent of its exports).

Its history is marked by a long series of ineffectual coups which always managed to leave behind a handful of families while the rest of the rapidly growing population remained in grinding poverty.

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Armando Molina of the conservative Party of National Conciliation won a presidential election amid allegations of ballot-rigging. Despite an abortive coup in March, he was sworn in on July 1. The man he defeated is Señor José Napoleón Duarte, who had opposed him on behalf of the National Opposition Union, a moderate coalition. Guerrilla activity began shortly.

In 1977 General Carlos Humberto Romero became president amid rather louder accusations of electoral fraud. Guerrilla activity increased, and in October 1979 he was deposed by a five-man junta of two colonels and three civilians.

Despite the junta's initial commitment to radical reform, including expropriations of land for the peasants and nationalization of the banks, the guerrilla campaign grew and so did violence from the right.

Last year 10,000 people are said to have died at the hands of the guerrillas, the anti-quated security forces, right-wing "death squads" and a group of "hit-men" reportedly based in or near Miami, Florida, and sought by the American authorities.

The reformist aspirations of the junta faded and it began to move to the right under pressure from the military, who have dominated politically in El Salvador for half a century. At the end of last year, Colonel Adolfo Majano, the leading liberal opponent in the junta, was dismissed. He was arrested last week after refusing to accept a comfortable exile as military attaché in Spain.

The colonel's dismissal coincided with the emergence of a new figure, General Duarte, who was appointed by the junta. Having failed to institute liberal reforms through the ballot box in 1972, Señor Duarte, a Christian Democrat, is now regarded as a right-wing tool by the guerrillas.

He is a typical example of how a moderate is overtaken on the left once demand for reform reaches a critical point. His position also reflects how far and how fast events have moved in El Salvador.

Under Cuban influence at least seven resistance groups ranging from progressive Christians to communists have united in the past year to form the Democratic Revolutionary Front (DRF) led by Señor Guillermo Ungo.

In parallel, the various guerrilla groups have come together under the umbrella of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), with an estimated strength of 8,000, against the 17,000 of the Salvadoran security forces. The DRF-FMLN runs an active propaganda operation from several centres abroad, including Mexico City and Boston.

Last November, the FMLN began what it hoped would be a final push for power, to anticipate the inauguration of President Reagan, boosted by large shipments mainly Western-made weapons since said by the America to have been sent by Vietnam, Ethiopia, Cuba and some Eastern European countries.

This week the Americans produced detailed documentation, which they claim, proves communist involvement in supplying and arming the guerrilla through Cuba. The relevant papers are reported to have been seized in El Salvador security forces during guerrilla bases and hideouts. These have been shown by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, to Western ambassadors in Washington.

Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, one of his senior assistants, and Western European leaders, a by two State Department follow-up teams, one for northern and one for southern Europe, all in the past few days, accompanied by detail press briefings.

At the same time, the Soviet Union, because of its perceived involvement in El Salvador, Cuba and Nicaragua are being pressed to stop helping the guerrillas; and Latin American governments are being urged to avoid being wooed by the guerrillas (with one exception: Mexico has publicly rebuffed Washington by refusing to be shown the Salvadoran dossier).

This is an immense diplomatic effort which ought to have greater goals than persuading America's allies to sympathize and to ensure that European Community aid to El Salvador does not reach the guerrillas.

The true explanation may be in the answer I received to a question I put to Mr Hernán Guevara, deputy assistant Secretary of State, when he was in London this week to brief British officials on El Salvador.

It was suggested that the new Administration had cast its eye over the world to find a suitable place where it could mount an early and firm stand against communism and had hit upon El Salvador. Would Mr Cohen be so kind as to say anything about this theory? "No comment."

The Government believes its good standing in the West, because of German economic might and its lack of big-power status, enables it to play the honest broker.

Herr Kurt Becker, the German spokesman, said that West Germany would be contributing to avoid an East-West conflict in El Salvador. The Government was "against all interference" there, implying American as well as communist.

Herr Becker said that the German Government had informed Lawrence Eagleburger, President Reagan's special envoy, West Germany's intention when he visited Bonn last week that West Germany would keep an eye on the situation in El Salvador and would be ready to express "understanding" for the American concern.

The Government states expressed "understanding" for the American concern.

## MPs deplore Reagan support for junta

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, February 25

West Germany, fearful of an East-West conflict in Latin America, today declared its intention to mediate between the two warring sides in El Salvador.

A government statement said that West Germany would "do everything in its power" to bring the two sides together for talks.

The government spokesman indicated that the first hopes were pinned on possible visits to Bonn by representatives of the El Salvador junta and the opposition Frente Democrático Revolucionario (FDR).

President José Napoleón Duarte, El Salvador's head of state, has been invited by the Christian Democratic Party to visit Bonn after a Christian Democrat world conference in Brussels next week.

Herr Kurt Becker, the Foreign Minister, has said that he would like to have talks with the President but it is not yet certain whether Señor Duarte will be able to come to Europe at all.

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## Europe urged to consider using force to help protect western oil supplies

By Richard Davy

A new transatlantic bargain is proposed in the first joint report to be produced by the heads of the principal foreign affairs institutes of Britain, France, West Germany and the United States.

Europe, it says, must share with the United States the burden of protecting the interests of the alliance outside the Nato area, especially in the Gulf. In return, the United States must treat Europe more as an equal partner in consultations.

"A new alliance relationship has to be built... based on more equal participation on both sides. In short, Nato must for the first time become a real alliance, not just one characterized by United States dominance and European passivity," the report, which is published today, says.

Setting out the "formidable and often unprecedented" challenges facing the alliance, the report identifies three main problems. First, East-West relations are deteriorating at a time when the Soviet military threat is growing both in Europe and in the Third World.

Second, the vital lifelines of the industrial West to oil and raw materials are threatened by an increasingly volatile and unstable Third World in which the Soviet Union is fishing for opportunities.

Third, the period ahead will be one of "prolonged economic

crisis worldwide", with low growth, high inflation and unemployment. This will sharpen North-South tensions, increase competition among Western nations, raise social tensions within nations, and make the sharing of defence burdens more difficult.

Coming to recommendations, the report takes a middle line on East-West relations, calling for an improved defence effort by the West while continuing efforts to maintain a dialogue with the Soviet Union, particularly on arms control. It supports a continuation of strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) and emphasizes that the alliance must pursue both elements—deployment of weapons and negotiations on arms control—of the Nato decision on the modernization of theatre nuclear forces in Europe.

The report then comes to the defence question of using force in the Third World, and especially in the Gulf area. It envisages four possible threats to Western oil supplies: Soviet military power, national and ethnic rivalries, revolution or internal disruption, and a new Arab-Israeli war.

It comments, in part, as follows: "It is clear that, given the immense uncertainties in the region, there is a need for some Western forces. The Soviet leaders have shown themselves extremely reluctant in the past to get into a direct

military confrontation with our superpower.

"A Western force might prove invaluable in the event of other threats than Soviet military intervention. These considerations point to active European military participation on the ground and sea in the Middle East."

Acknowledging practical political difficulties, the report emphasizes that the West is not only on military but also on economic and technical assistance, political support, mutually acceptable financial arrangements with the oil-producing states.

Western Security: What changed? What should be done? By Karl Kaiser, director, Institut Français des Relations Internationales, Paris. (Continued on page 9)

فكرنا من الأصل



uses El Salvador  
against  
Central America

OVERSEAS

# Soap-opera trial that caught a nation's imagination

By Michael Leeman  
New York, Feb 25

JEAN HARRIS trial, which began yesterday when Mrs Harris was convicted of murdering Dr Herman Tarnower, former lover, occupied a column inches of newsprint space for more hours yesterday news time, than in recent American media. Even at the United Nations, diplomats caucusing in delegations were as to be talking about it as the global negotiations a new world economic



Dr Herman Tarnower, renowned dietician, and Mrs Jean Harris, the schoolmistress and former lover who shot him. The chief reason for all this attention was the soap-opera quality of the case. The soap opera is a chronicle of passion and deceit played out on television every weekday afternoon. Many are set in hospitals and depict doctors' lives. Here was life imitating life. Here was a real

occasion her lawyer did so as well.

Mostly, though, she kept the poise and the clarity of an accomplished schoolmistress as she explained her role as the spurned lover, the faithful courtesan displaced by Mrs Lynne Tryforos, the younger woman she savaged in these words: "A whore is a whore is a whore."

Her bitterness against Dr Tarnower was most extravagantly expressed in the so-called "Scarsdale letter" which she wrote and posted to him just before making the fatal journey. Written on 10 sheets of the school's headed note-paper, it was a sustained essay in vituperation against the doctor and the wrong which, according to her perception, he had done her. It was apparently sparked by his decision to take Mrs Tryforos and not her to a testimonial dinner in his honour the following month.

know when we would see each other again."

She disclosed in the letter that she had telephoned Mrs Tryforos every night for a month. She claimed that the younger woman had despoiled clothes which she, Mrs Harris, had left in Dr Tarnower's house, by sneaking them with her. In return, she had "ripped up or destroyed anything I saw that your slut had touched".

The constant use of "slut", "whore" and like insults suggest a snobbish element to Mrs Harris's objection to Mrs Tryforos. In another letter to the doctor, quoted at the trial, she asked him to consider how the high-society women whose opinions he valued would react if they knew he was consorting with his personal assistant.

Dier, which has sold 750,000 copies in hard covers and more than two million in paperback. It is a diet plan for the upper crust, relying on the intake of fat-free protein from expensive lean meat.

Millions of pounds of pampered human flesh have been shed by its followers. Chic restaurants boast of serving meals which accord with Dr Tarnower's precepts.

On the cover of the paperback, his lean, urgent face looks out beneath a rising septuagenarian. He appears virile, for sure, but hardly the kind of man you would expect to be holding two women—at least—in his thrall.

Scarsdale is a wealthy suburb in Westchester County, a half-hour drive north of New York. It is where Dr Tarnower had his home, his clinic and his lovers—and where, on the night of March 10 last year, after a rampanous drive from Virginia, Mrs Harris shot him. The trial took place at the modern courthouse of White Plains, the county seat. Every day suburbanites queued to occupy the public seats

## Many Zia opponents detained after unrest

From Hasan Akhtar  
Islamabad, Feb 25

ABOUT 100 political activists are reported to have been arrested in Lahore and other parts of Pakistan in a big crackdown on opponents of the Government during the past 24 hours. Little information has been officially released about the latest arrests or about those which have taken place in the past fortnight.

Unofficial reports stated that among those arrested in Lahore, the Punjab capital, were several leaders of the Pakistan People's Party, which was founded by Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the late Prime Minister, the Tehrik-i-Parky Istiqal, and socialist groups.

(Reuters reports that members of the Pakistan Muslim League were also detained in what has been described as the country's biggest police sweep after two weeks of student protest demanding an end to martial law.)

Prominent among those detained today were the two sons of Mr Mahmud Ali Kasuri, the Tehrik leader, who was arrested about 10 days ago. Aftab Kasuri, a former Punjab minister; Mr C. R. Aslam, a socialist leader; Qasim Malik, a Muslim League member; Mr Farooq Laghari and Mr Malik Said Hassan, of the People's Party, were also said to have been arrested.

to the three and a half years of martial law.

Today, the newly-elected leadership of the Lahore Bar Association accused the regime of "entering towns 'ruthless tyranny' and demanded that all those arrested should be released and that political repression cease."

The association also decided to observe a one-day strike on March 2.

An unofficial report from Karachi stated there had also been trouble in the Sindh capital, which has remained relatively calm in the past few days.

Student violence in other cities and towns of the Punjab and the North-West frontier provinces, has caused the closure of universities and colleges.

The most violent of these incidents took place last weekend in Peshawar, when the Government accused students of using stolen rifles against the police.

Begum Nusrat Bhutto, chairman of the now defunct People's Party, was said to have been prevented from flying to Peshawar to meet the students. President Zia ul-Haq said today that there were foreign and internal elements behind the student agitation.

The President's confidence that the student trouble and political opposition poses no serious threat to his regime is perhaps reflected by his announcement today that he would leave tomorrow for Saudi Arabia to join the Islamic mission which will visit Tehran and Baghdad in yet another attempt to halt the Gulf war.

## Zimbabwe presents its plan to close incomes gap between whites and blacks

By Stephen Taylor  
Harare, Feb 25

ZIMBABWE Government released a policy statement yesterday about a new economic plan which it hopes to form the nation through industrial growth and bring equity.

Bernard Chidzero, the Minister of Economic Planning and Development, said a present reality that wide disparities between the incomes of whites and blacks posed a grave threat to the country. "We take measures to close gaps of the society cannot be," he said.

The Government's main objective was to "establish an urban and socialist society in democratic conditions". A three-year national development plan calls for a total investment of about 4,000m shwe dollars (about 1m). Two weeks ago, Mr Chidzero said that the Government was hoping to attract about 1,200m dollars at donors' conference here month to fund some of the plan, such as the "smoke to acquire" land white owners and rebute it among blacks.

A policy document provides a framework and Mr Chidzero declined to be drawn specific aspects of it. On the issue of mining revenue, the document says the Government provide "an acceptable and effective marketing system for minerals and metals".

Present mining produce is sold by the producing companies. Asked what form the system would take, the Minister said the Government would seek to take part in mining industries, the degree such involvement to be decided by mutual agreement in the light of national priorities.

Land resettlement, which Government considers as

one of the priorities and which it hopes to fund out of foreign capital, the document says: "Land is a common heritage and no one should enjoy absolute ownership of it."

Enlarging on this point Mr Chidzero repeated that the Government was not against the freehold system but against absentee landlords and aimed at the acquisition of abandoned or neglected land. Such land would be used for communal, family and state farms, according to the document.

On manpower, the document says that the emphasis in training should be placed on those "with a low emigration risk". Whites will see this as being aimed against them, Mr Chidzero said that it was wasteful to train people who left the country "at the hour of political trouble".

Overall, however, observers see the document as a retreat economically from the socialist policies publicly proclaimed by the Government. In spite of the use of such phrases as putting an end to "imperialist exploitation", there is no mention of nationalisation and Mr Chidzero tried to dispel impressions that the policy heralded overt state interference in business.

In an economy dominated by the private sector, he said, the Government wanted to see cross-fertilisation between the private and public sectors. He said that the economy, especially mining, "is under considerable foreign ownership and control. A large degree of local participation, private and public is essential."

He added: "The concept is growth but that is not the answer in itself—we want a more equitable distribution of wealth."

Details of application of the policy and the amounts allocated, will become known in July when the plan is launched.

## Iran turns back British missionaries at airport gate

From Tony Allaway  
Tehran, Feb 25

A mysterious last-minute telephone call today prevented three British missionaries from leaving Iran after six months' imprisonment as suspected spies.

Hours after the three — Dr John Coleman, his wife Dr Audrey Coleman and Miss Jean Waddell — were turned back

at Tehran airport, as they prepared to board a flight for Paris, diplomats were still asking themselves what went wrong.

"We're still wondering what it's all about," a diplomatic source said. "We are just waiting for someone to give us an explanation."

Despite the unexplained hitch there are still high hopes that

the three Anglican missionaries will be able to leave Tehran tomorrow morning on a scheduled flight to Dubai.

A spokesman for the Swedish Embassy, which handles British interests in Iran, said the three would spend the night "as the guests of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ministry hopes they will be able to leave tomorrow."

Diplomatic mission: British diplomats in Tehran are seeking permission to see Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman who is still held in Evin prison (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

The only consular visit allowed during Mr Pyke's six months in captivity took place on February 7 through the good offices of the Swedish Embassy.

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## Ir Reagan seeks Thatcher views on tight budgets



Mrs Thatcher leaving the Savoy Hotel, London, last night, to catch a flight from Heathrow airport for Washington.

continued from page 1

Government to tread carefully with the EC's plan to involve Palestinians more directly any follow-up to the Camp David agreements.

Mr Alexander Haig, the secretary of State, has made it clear that Washington is not in the near stage of the summit of the Palestinian autonomy negotiations — until the Israeli general election is mid-summer. However, to mollify the Israelis who are anxious that the negotiations would resume as soon as possible, Mr Haig has let it be known that he is planning a visit to the Middle East in the spring.

On Africa, Mrs Thatcher will want to impress upon Mr Reagan the importance which Britain and the other Europeans attach to a successful conclusion of the negotiations with South Africa on the independence of south-west Africa (Namibia).

The British Government regards Washington's much improved relationship with black African countries as one of the most important achievements of the Administration of former President Carter and it does not want this new-found friendliness to be dispelled and replaced by a one-sided, pro-white South African slant.

President Reagan and his advisers will want to hear at first hand from Mrs Thatcher how her Government is faring in its efforts to revamp the British economy along similar lines to the budget and tax-cutting initiative launched here last week.

Not all the abundant publicity which the news media have given to Mrs Thatcher's economic experiments in advance of her visit has been favourable. Nevertheless, as one American official puts it, the jury is still out on Thatcherism.

Brezhnev initiative: At their meeting yesterday, the Labour Party executive welcomed "the conciliatory statement" made by President Brezhnev at the latest congress of the Soviet Communist Party and in particular the proposals for advance notification of troop movements and other "confidence-building measures" and for restraint in the nuclear arms race. Our Political Correspondent writes:

"We call on Mrs Thatcher to use her United States visit to encourage the people of the United States and President Reagan to respond favourably to the Soviet proposal for urgent negotiations between the super powers, Labour executive stated. 'We call on the United States to work together to reduce international tensions and dangers of nuclear war and begin the process of nuclear disarmament.'"

# Royal Mail Special Services

Reagan loved Thatcher  
and he wanted to marry her



## OVERSEAS

# The Pope inspired by Hiroshima makes dramatic peace appeal

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Hiroshima, Feb 25

The Pope made one of his most dramatic and moving appeals for world peace and disarmament today near the spot where an atomic bomb exploded over the Japanese city of Hiroshima in August, 1945, to claim the lives of more than 140,000 people in a short, blinding and cataclysmic flash.

Addressing the big powers at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, about 150 yards from the epicentre of the explosion, the Pope declared that Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the other city bombed, should become international symbols of peace because they stood out as the first victims of nuclear war.

Speaking in nine languages, including Japanese, English, Chinese and Russian, the Pope said: "On this very spot where, 35 years ago, the life of so many people was snuffed out in one fiery moment, I wish to appeal to the whole world on behalf of life, on behalf of humanity, on behalf of the future."

"To the heads of state and of government, to those who hold political and economic power, I say: 'Let us pledge ourselves to peace through justice, let us take a solemn decision now that war will never be tolerated or sought as a means of resolving differences.'"

But even as the Pope was making his appeal in Hiroshima, Mr. Joji Omura, the director-general of the Japanese Defence Agency, told a parliamentary committee on security in Tokyo that Japan should build up the strength of its armed forces because of a growing Soviet naval presence in Asia and the invasion of Afghanistan.

At about the same time, Mr. Masayoshi Imai, the Foreign Minister, said that the Government intended gradually to build up the armed forces, but that Japan would never again be a military power.

Earlier today, light snow began to fall over Hiroshima as the Pope placed a wreath in front of a cenotaph in the peace park in memory of the 200,000 victims of a device nicknamed "Little Boy"—the first atomic bomb to be used in warfare.

More than 140,000 people were killed in the initial blast over Hiroshima on the morning of August 6, 1945, and it is estimated that another 60,000 victims died from the after-effects of radiation over the past three decades. The lives of another 110,000 victims were claimed by the explosion of the second atomic bomb.

Hiroshima has been rebuilt into a modern, gleaming city and as the Pope appealed to the world for peace today he could see the only remaining scar of war—the unreplicated skeleton of a destroyed dome which has been left standing as a memorial at the epicentre of the blast.

Speaking to a crowd of 25,000 Japanese Christians and residents of Hiroshima, the Pope said: "It is with deep emotion that I have come here today as a pilgrim of peace. I wanted to make this visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial out of a deep personal conviction that to remember the past is to commit oneself to the future."

"To remember Hiroshima is to shatter nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace."

He said that since the atomic bombs were dropped, nuclear stockpiles had grown in quantity and destructive power.

"Even if a mere fraction of the available weapons were to be used, one has to ask whether the inevitable escalation can be imagined and whether the very destruction of humanity is not a real possibility."

Many Japanese priests and the relatives of victims of the atomic bomb broke into tears as the Pope, wearing a white cassock and cap, stood on the spot of the explosion and ended his appeal with a prayer: "Oh God, hear my voice and grant unto the world everlasting peace."

With birds flying around him, the Pope sits waiting to address his audience in Hiroshima yesterday.

Approximately three and a half minutes after I had dropped our son at school I saw another boy who looked just like him. He too was tall and blond and dressed in blue and he had a brown bag for his books, but while my last sight of our son had been of him gawling off exchanging bops with specially favoured friends my first of the other boy was very different.

He was lying on the busy road, his satchel under his head, his bicycle toppled on the pavement, his blue duffel spread over him. He was quite still, the quiet centre of a commotion of stopped cars, passing cars, more bikes, gesticulating helpers and inquisitive pedestrians.

I have no idea how badly he was hurt. I have no idea whether he had been knocked down by a car, or had fainted from lack of breakfast, or had been taken ill. All I do know is that at 8.33 am on a Monday something terrible had happened to a child, and that very easily the child could have been mine.

Mothers who work from other than the direct necessity are always vulnerable to the accusation that they either neglect or over-protect their children. Mothers who have never stopped working, save a minimal period, are vulnerable ten times over.

We used to think, we social pariahs, in the heady Sixties that at any minute we should be recognized for the saviours of womanhood that we are—and were we not all just about to be sisters under the skin?—and therefore all women would back our efforts. Forget it.

Or rather, do not forget, but examine it in the light of your own personal experience, working or not, as I found myself examining my attitudes to my life when I saw that boy lying in the road. Far from being sisters of any sort it seems that we have not only grown further apart, and less flexible and more predictable in our response to social changes, but that also we seem to have managed to involve the male sex in many of our own problems, and to have floundered out of the sink only to find that swimming is too tough a job.

The fact is that I believe that it is still far too hard for a woman to work to her full capacity in productive or human terms, to fulfil herself, and at the same time to be a wife and mother. Of course in times of economic recession the jealousy, which is never far below the surface, bubbles up in sheer fright that women may be taking jobs which should go to the historical breadwinner. Show me a woman who appears to have been given everything and I will show you a woman of whom too much is expected.

Until women feel confident enough to fail, publicly, obviously, to make a fearful fluff-up reading the television news, to stop worrying about whether they look the part or their hair is awry and realize that to fail brings them closer to their audience in the office or on the platform not further away, the dual role still expected of them will be for most just too taxing.

Ironically, women are far better at owning up to their mistakes than men, who have been shown through history to have crunched empires rather than admit they were wrong.

But it is the family aspect of the working mother that interests me today. Do we neglect? Ourselves, very possibly. It is the curse of many successful women to be gifted with fine health which they then systematically destroy because, since others take you at your own valuation, it never occurs to them that they can be ill, that they have the opportunity to be ill, and so everyone else assumes that they are made of cast iron too.

On the over-protective question, this I think is again very much a personal one. The conscientious working mother replaces herself at home with the best she can possibly afford, but this in itself is a great test of selflessness. If you are to commit the care of your children—and I am of course supposing that you love and need them just as they love and need you, and not that you are bored by or frightened of them—to the hands of somebody else, you run the risk of choking jealousy when the children are patiently managed by nannies than with your own "amusing" life style; best nannies deserve love in return too. Or you run the risk of making yourself superfluous.

I was most interested in reading *The Art of Starvation* by Sheila MacLeod, not so much for her descriptions of the origins of her anorexia nervosa (classic) as for her subsequent revival of the condition when she was a successful novelist and the wife of a pop star who could afford to "replace" herself only too adequately at home, and who was obviously regarded as de trop by the groupies who admired her husband.

I have to admit that I had never heard of either Sheila MacLeod or of her husband—perhaps I was too busy cooking the supper or going to Hong Kong—but I would argue that this brings me fresher to the subject. For to the "great world", the world which obviously counted to Ms MacLeod, she was a success whatever that means, while to herself she was a failure, first at managing the jump from girlhood to womanhood, and then at managing real womanhood in terms of adult relationships.

Above all, it seems, in an adult relationship with herself. This has nothing to do with lack of intelligence, indeed it is the intelligent women who drink too much or who eat too much who prove the hardest to treat, because they are the cleverest at seeing that they are up to and past because being successful in a world means never admitting in public that they have failed to be the masters of themselves.

How much knowledge of your own should your children be expected to share? Should I now tell my son that he must never bicycle in Oxford, daughter that my heart stopped when I saw her sail through the air over a horse's head straight toward a spit tree stump, and that she must not ride again?

My fears you see are physical; I am perfectly able to cope with moral dilemmas, which are freely cussed, opinions exchanged and views held. As far as possible, choice is offered but in certain cases a strident line is taken, which is explained, may be refuted by them at a later date. I must admit though that I get stuck with the "Who am I and What Am I Doing Here?" bed time queries possibly because one so often wonders these things oneself. Readers will surely have some answers.

What do you tell them about your financial background? I think, for complete security, the lie we have to tell is that we are poor. About jobs one must be equally frank in explaining that work brings different satisfactions to different people, and that that satisfaction may have little or no relevance to material benefits gained or the apparent sacrifices made.

Health is a much more difficult subject because children, just as adults, react differently to it. It is health in others usually a bore among adults, but for children it can be frightening, particularly as they are so observant. "What are those pills? Why don't you want your lunch?"

On the positive side I am convinced that in parent-child relationships quality is superior to quantity and that the high degree of frankness pitched at an under-standable level is far better than papering over cracks which then burst into a chasm (one minute the Rolls, the next the bailiffs). I also think that children should be brought up to have an interest in, and a security in, their own knowledge, their own unique value and identity in life inculcated by love and understanding, so that when the world knocks them down, as it will, they can pick themselves up by their own bootstraps or their own twist and pearls, coupled with the best, by which I mean the most appropriate knowledge that can possibly be managed.

To my sister workers I would urge, try a little failure. When Duty whispers low "Thou Must" the sensible woman replies "I can't."

\* *The Art of Starvation*, by Sheila MacLeod, published by Virago at £5.95 hardback, £2.95 paperback. Readers might also be interested in *Eating Disorders* the classic by Hilda Bruch published in 1974 by Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Prudence Glynn

# The boy on the road who made me stop and think



With birds flying around him, the Pope sits waiting to address his audience in Hiroshima yesterday.

## Policemen earning £3 a week confront drug barons

# Bombs may be used to destroy this year's big opium harvest

From Neil Kelly  
Bangkok, Feb 25

Harvesting of the world's most expensive crop is almost over in the mountainous border regions of Thailand, Burma and Laos. The 1981 opium crop in the so-called Golden Triangle is the best for years and may amount to about 620 tons, according to Thai and Western narcotics officers.

After being refined into heroin and diluted it will be worth about £12,000 when sold to addicts around the world.

Ideal growing conditions this season and a scarcity of heroin because of drought in recent years are responsible for the big crop which is three or four times larger than last year. Burma is expected to produce about 500 tons, Thailand 50 tons and Laos up to 70 tons.

Laotian government officials say farmers must hand over all their opium to the government in exchange for salt and other essential commodities. However, Thai police regularly intercept Laotian opium entering Thailand and last year seized nearly 400 tons.

The Burmese Communist Party, deprived of most of its former support from China, now uses opium as a source of money for guns and other supplies, and intelligence analysts believe that Thai communist insurgents are now trading in opium for the same reason.

Since it became clear a big crop was on the way, Thai and Burmese police have been warning hill tribe farmers not to produce opium, and recently burnt extensive areas of poppies on both sides of the border.

Thai officials say they need at least 3,000 more men for effective suppression in growing areas, some of which can easily be reached only by helicopter.

Nevertheless, Thai border police and soldiers are preparing to strike more heavily than ever before against the mule trains moving through the rugged border mountains with opium bought from Thai and Burmese farmers.

Colonel Kosol Limpichart, deputy secretary-general of the Thai narcotics control board, said that more than 12 heroin laboratories along the Thai-Burmese border had already resumed production after being out of use for years.

The colonel indicated that if necessary they would be destroyed with bombs dropped from aircraft. With police handling more than 20,000 drugs cases a year and with more than half a million addicts in Thailand, the narcotics control board is now dealing with drugs more rigorously than in the past.

The huge riches to be made from opium and heroin trading—it has been called the most profitable business known to man—defy most law enforcement efforts. Most of the government men confronting the big traders who possess the authority of feudal warlords are 13-week policemen.

The warlords' intelligence network is extensive enough to give them ample warning of raids and as a result government forces usually find deserted villages, dismantled laboratories and not an ounce of opium and heroin in sight.

The growers themselves often take a tough line with the government men and sometimes threaten to call up "insurgents" for help if officials interfere with the opium trade.

In these circumstances the police do not push them too hard and instead use education and persuasion to wean them away from opium.

Some foreign observers warning of a new "poppy" crisis are critical of this soft approach; but United Nations officials on the spot say indiscriminate destruction of poppy fields would produce either a rebellion or a situation requiring an international relief operation for deprived farmers.

The United Nations is working closely with King Bhumibol of Thailand on a crop replacement programme initiated by the king 12 years ago.

Growers have found they can make much more from coffee than opium. They are also doing well with kidney beans, salad vegetables, cereals, stone fruits and apples. However, the operation is so far little more than a pilot scheme as it covers only 56 villages. More than 200 villages continue to live off the opium crop.

## Chun victory in S Korea presidential election

# Chun victory in S Korea presidential election

From Jacqueline Redix  
Seoul, Feb 25

President Chun Doo Hwan, of South Korea, was elected to a seven-year term of office today, winning the final stage of the presidential election hands down over three rival candidates.

General Chun won 4755 votes—over 90 per cent—in the electoral college while his nearest runner-up, Mr Yoo Chi Song of the opposition Democratic Korea Party collected only 404 votes. In third place was Mr Kim Chong Chul of the pro-government Korea National Party with 85 votes.

Today's election was in fact little more than a formality and his rivals had admitted, even before the voting began, that they had no chance whatsoever of winning the election but were only participating to further the prestige of their parties.

Under the terms of the new constitution, promulgated after a referendum by President Chun last October, he needed only a simple majority of the electoral college votes to secure the presidency.

Also under the constitution, President Chun will serve only a single seven-year term and he has promised to ensure a peaceful transfer of power when his term of office expires.

President Chun moved to the forefront of the political scene last May during a period of confusion and instability. With the full power of the military behind him, he imposed a nationwide martial law and stamped out student riots, an anti-government uprising in the southern town of Kwangju and all political dissent. As his strength and prestige increased, he became the obvious successor to the mantle of power left vacant by the assassinated former president, Park Chung Hee.

Although initially President Chun was criticised for his ambitions, he resigned from the military to become president and quickly proved his ability to cope with both domestic and foreign affairs.

He has won the respect of the Korean electorate by standing firm in the face of foreign, especially Japanese, criticism by patching up relations with the United States, thereby ensuring continued American defence aid against the North Korean threat, and by challenging Marshal Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader, to visit the republic.

He said that extinction on such a scale was without precedent. "Most of the birds are attributed to destruction or loss of habitats, resulting from clearing or degrading forests. The second largest cause is over-exploitation for commercial interest."

Mr Birendra Singh was opening the third conference of signatories of Cites, the 1973 convention on international trade in endangered species of wild life and flora and fauna.

He said that 67 countries had signed the convention. But its effectiveness was bound to be limited so long as non-members outnumbered members and as long as the ranks of non-members included unscrupulous traders in wildlife.

The conference is attempting to strengthen international laws to control the trade in skins, ivory, oils, and in live animals and plants.

A report by the American-based Animal Welfare Institute, published here today, says that at least seven and a half million wild birds from Latin America, Asia and Africa were trapped every year.

Two fifths die after capture on the way to the ports and airports from where they are sent abroad. Four fifths of the young and delicate birds die.

## An inexact science

### The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

Underlined, italicised, or printed in bold capitals, the words more or less, but seldom exactly should be stamped on recipes as insistently as cigarette health warnings.

The point is easy enough to take when it concerns seasonings. How else would you add salt, except to taste? But how soft is a slack dough, how thick is a thin batter, or firm a meringue when it is stiff, but on no account dry? Experience tells you of course. And recipes try to tell you the best of flour will mop up more or less liquid depending on the humidity of the place it has been stored, and other makes are ground more or less finely from harder or softer blends of wheat. It is not hard to see why my dough needs three tablespoons of water and yours needs four.

If apparently standard ingredients are infuriatingly variable, cooking times are more elusive still. Your gentle simmer is unlikely to match mine outside a laboratory, and my electric oven undoubtedly has tricks which differ from those of any gas cooker, never mind a solid fuel stove.

Aside from hot spots or cold spots to which many an oven is prone, numerous other factors affect baking times. The thickness and heat conducting properties of the tins or dishes used makes more difference than sometimes seems reasonable. Chilled food obviously takes longer to bake than ingredients already at room temperature. The larger the quantity the greater the difference, and so on.

Hence all those seemingly hedging abouts in cooking times, advice on tapping loaves for that well-baked hollow sound, and jabbing skewers in

to cakes which must come out clean. Talking of skewers brings me to chicken and to this week's recipes which require no prodding to see when they are done.

The slightly resinous taste of pine nuts combined with thyme and rosemary flavour this easy dish. Spring chickens or poussins seem to be available all year round now. These are so young and tender that they are easily split in halves. Place them breast up on a chopping board. Cut cleanly down one side of the breast bone. Then using poultry shears or hefty kitchen scissors snap the wish-bone and cut through the bones of the back just to one side of the spine. If you prefer to use a chicken piece, wings with a good portion of breast meat are the best choice. Portions weighing about 225g (8oz) raw are the ideal size.

**Poussin aux pignons**  
Serves four  
2 poussin weighing 450g (1lb) or more each  
55g (2oz) butter  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
1 teaspoon dried rosemary leaves  
1 teaspoon dried thyme  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
3 tablespoons pine nuts

Split each poussin as explained above. Spread half the butter over the base of a shallow oven proof dish big enough to hold the chicken pieces in one layer with a little space between them. Rub each portion on all sides with the garlic and spread the skin sides with the remaining butter. Sprinkle the dish

with half the herbs and lay the chicken pieces in it. Sprinkle them with the rest of the herbs and season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Bake the chicken in a preheated oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for 35 to 45 minutes depending on the size of the pieces. About 15 minutes before serving sprinkle the pine nuts over the chicken and baste the pieces with the pan juices.

Serve very hot with a dish of thinly sliced potatoes and a little onion baked in milk or stock, or with ribbon noodles.

People who have not tasted chicken cooked with 40 cloves of garlic understandably find it difficult to believe that the dish is not poisonously strongly flavoured with the stuff. The fact is that provided it is made with plump fresh garlic, not acid cloves which have been stored too long, the result is especially tasty and not at all pungent.

**Chicken with 40 cloves of garlic**  
Serves four  
1 chicken, 1.35 to 1.6kg (3 to 3½ lbs) and its liver  
1 bay leaf  
1 sprig parsley  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
30g (1oz) butter  
40 plump cloves garlic, peeled  
4 thick slices white bread, crusts removed

Wipe the chicken inside and out and reserve the liver. Put the bay leaf and parsley in the chicken and season the interior with salt and freshly ground black pepper before trussing it.

Heat the oil and butter in a heavy fireproof casserole large enough to hold the chicken without too much room to spare. Brown the chicken lightly on all sides making sure that the butter does not burn. Add the 40 peeled cloves of garlic and a generous seasoning of salt and pepper. Cover tightly and transfer the casserole to a preheated oven (140°C/275°F, gas mark 1). Cook the casserole for about 2 hours, or until the chicken is tender and its flesh is almost falling from the bones.

Remove the chicken to a serving dish and keep it warm while you prepare the garnish. Skim two tablespoons of fat from the casserole and heat it in a small saucepan. Roughly chop the chicken liver and sauté it in the fat until just firm.

Take the cooked garlic from the casserole and mash it with the liver, pressing it through a wire sieve to make a smooth purée. Divide each slice of bread into two triangles. Toast the bread lightly or fry it golden brown in a mixture of olive oil and butter. Divide the garlic purée between the triangles, toast and arrange them round the chicken. Serve very hot with plainly baked or mashed potatoes or with ribbon noodles. The skinned pan juices may be served separately as a rich gravy.

**Devilled chicken**  
Serves four  
4 or 8 chicken joints, cooked or partly cooked  
110g (4oz) butter, softened  
1 tablespoon dry mustard  
2 tablespoons dry bread crumbs  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
1 tablespoon sweet chutney or spiced apple cheese  
Salt  
Cayenne pepper

Line a grill pan with greased foil and arrange the chicken pieces in it.

Combine all the remaining ingredients and blend well together. Spread the devilled butter on the chicken pieces and grill them on a medium heat so that the meat heats through thoroughly, or finish cooking as the sauce prohibits. Baste the chicken from time to time as it grills.

Serve very hot with crusty bread or baked potatoes and a salad.

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## Ecuador and Peru agree on peace zone

Quito, Feb 25.—Ecuador and Peru have agreed to establish a demilitarized zone on their border, former President Galo Plaza of Ecuador said here last night.

Troops from both countries would withdraw nine miles on either side of the border in the Cordillera mountain range where fresh clashes occurred over the weekend, despite the ceasefire of February 2, he said in a television interview.

Señor Plaza, a former secretary-general of the Organization of American States (OAS) with strong personal ties with the presidents of both countries, said that both army commands would hold talks in the demilitarized zone on the long-standing border dispute.

The proposal for a demilitarized zone was apparently made at a meeting in Brasilia on Monday by the United States, Brazil, Chile and Argentina, which jointly guaranteed a treaty ending a border war between Peru and Ecuador 40 years ago.

Peru and Ecuador were involved in five days of fighting along an ill-defined part of their border in late January before agreeing to a ceasefire sponsored by the four guarantor countries.

Señor Plaza said the first meeting of the two army commands could be held in Huacillas, on the border, some 400 miles south of Quito. He did not give a date.

Earlier yesterday the Brazilian military attaché in Quito, who flew over the disputed area, was quoted as saying that complete calm now prevailed there.—Reuters.

## US investigates bombing of Hongkong fishing boats

From Our Correspondent  
Hong Kong, Feb 25

The United States Consulate-General in Hong Kong is investigating the bomb attack on three Hongkong fishing junks anchored in advanced maritime waters about 200 miles west of Manila.

It is now accepted that the two jet bombers which dropped two bombs in three low-diving attacks on the junks, hitting the junk with one bomb which did not explode, belonged to either the Philippine Air Force or the United States Air Force or the United States Air Force or the United States Air Force.

Evidently the attack was a bombing exercise and the anchored junks were mistaken for fixed targets. Hongkong Government authorities are still inspecting the damaged junk, which limped back to Hong Kong

under escort by the other junks, and have apparently decided to allow the American Consulate to direct the embarrassing inquiries.

Notices are normally issued in advance warning maritime agencies and ships warning them to avoid the target area.

"The Government must discover the country responsible for the bombing and demand an explanation for the attack and if possible seek compensation for the fishermen concerned," Mr Philip Lai, the chairman of the Hongkong Fishermen's Society said.

There were only three local fishermen and three Filipino fishermen, who were seeking water supplies on board the junk which was hit. None was injured.

He said that extinction on such a scale was without precedent. "Most of the birds are attributed to destruction or loss of habitats, resulting from clearing or degrading forests. The second largest cause is over-exploitation for commercial interest."

Mr Birendra Singh was opening the third conference of signatories of Cites, the 1973 convention on international trade in endangered species of wild life and flora and fauna.

He said that 67 countries had signed the convention. But its effectiveness was bound to be limited so long as non-members outnumbered members and as long as the ranks of non-members included unscrupulous traders in wildlife.

The conference is attempting to strengthen international laws to control the trade in skins, ivory, oils, and in live animals and plants.

A report by the American-based Animal Welfare Institute, published here today, says that at least seven and a half million wild birds from Latin America, Asia and Africa were trapped every year.

Two fifths die after capture on the way to the ports and airports from where they are sent abroad. Four fifths of



clear to the Commission that we are concerned about special aids and special arrangements which should not go on, playing Marquess of Queensberry rules while they Marquess break every regulation that we have.

Mr Walker: In terms of hygiene arrangements, this is an important difference and it can affect the Commission's action.

I am much more concerned in the poultry industry about the potential damage that could be done by bacteria. This is an industry which could expand swiftly and with a further adjustment of the rules of the game we could create a situation where we could compete totally unfairly with another Community competitor.

I would issue this warning to other countries which may have unfair demands to that industry. This adverse effect of that on the Commission would be such that it might prevent the action would have to be taken.

Mr Gavin Strang, an Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Leitham, East, Scotland) has stated that the Government's beef quotas and levies is a step back rather than an encouragement to the future of the beef industry in Scotland and Liverpool. That closure is unacceptable to the people of Liverpool and is being resisted by the farmers. They are supported by the Opposition.

Mr Walker: I find it incredible effrontery by the Opposition in Scotland to say that the Government have reduced the sugar beet quota by 182,000 tonnes below the quota they agreed, as being against the interests of the people of Scotland and Liverpool.

of the peak and rising traffic, the Manpower Services is considering a new approach to the parking of those cars and the Government to manpower cuts are considered at the cost of reducing the quality of the service.

It is right that the Government should seek to make the service more efficient and to reduce our present unemployment.

The Government succeeded in reducing the cost by a net amount of £1.5 million a year, a further achievement in the good progress to date towards coming years.

The GLC planned to experiment with three methods—the use of tokens, the use of automatic cars and the use of some kind of in-vehicle display which would remove the need for drivers.

Of the more than 25,000, at any one time because of vandalism.

Mr Sydney Chappman (Barnet, Chipping Barnet, C) said he was a member of the Secretariat of State and he was a member of the Council. He said his own view was that parking meters were environmental disasters. They were a nuisance to the pleasant squares and so on. They also invited vandalism.

Revenue for off-street parking should be brought in by the sale of revenue from the sale of parking tickets for windcreens. They could be got from machines or in advance in bulk. The GLC should consider the use of parking meters.

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (Under Secretary for the Environment, Camden, Hampstead, C) said the Government found the Bill acceptable and hoped it would be passed.

Mr Edward Graham (an environment spokesman on environment) (Enfield, Edmonton, Lab) said that the Government had been being made in car parking. Was the prime purpose of this legislation to cause the motorists more trouble?

House adjourned, 9.07 pm.

He said the minister should have the power to lower the rate, but if he wished to raise it he should come back to the House.

Mr Hugh Fraser (Stafford and Stone, C) said by shorting up industrial gas prices the Government was inflicting maximum damage on British manufacturers during what would probably be the worst years of the world slump.

Domestic gas was being over-subsidised. It was in industry that gas should be cheap.

read the third time by 188 votes to 151—government majority 37.

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## Parliamentary notices

### House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Debate on Opposition motions on crisis in the textile, clothing and footwear industries and on the deteriorating economic and employment situation in the south and south-west.

### House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Resuming (Temporary Provisions) Bill, third reading, (Emergency Fund Bill and Companies Bill, second readings. Debate on energy prices charged to industry.

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paraphrase, specifies that any assessment must consider "effects on water, air, soil, climate, flora, fauna and their interrelationships, the built-up environment, including the architectural heritage, and the landscape."

Industries affected would include agriculture, mining, metal processing, chemical and food production and building. The prospective developer would be required to supply the environmental data with his application for planning permission: those data would be taken into account in deciding on the application.

The House of Lords is to debate the report on April 6. 11th report of the House of Lords European Communities Committee, Session 1980-81: *Environment and Development* (H.L. 69, Stationery Office, 19.95. The document includes the text of the draft directive.)

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Ronald Butt

# Putting power in its proper place

Legitimacy is the most important single principle of government. Nothing else offers the same assurance of that combination or order with freedom under known law which is the essential basis of a decent human existence. Respect for legitimate government (and it has been the achievement of Britain to sustain the concept through many centuries of political change) is the last bulwark against the tyranny of revolutions, and all the arbitrary brutality that follows, the overthrow of an established order by force.

Yet almost any concept that the human mind can envisage leads, if pursued with uncompromising logic, to something intolerable if not to absurdity. The case for order, given priority over every other consideration, is a case for tyranny and disorder. We need such concepts as stars to steer by, a little this way and that to avoid disaster, but we make our greatest mistake if we think that our finite minds can discover in a single principle the perfect recipe for government.

Even legitimacy is not an exception to this rule. Indeed, it is a fragile thing, easily tested to destruction, and it is the principal preserve of those who are responsible for its preservation not to let this happen. When King Charles I was told by the unparliamentary House of Commons that he was a tyrant, he replied "before a court of justice" and he was executed. I see that I am before a power, and I have arrived there not by malignity or intended tyranny, but by the principle of government for which he sought to stand was not, in intention, an inalienable one but by political ineptitude.

It is the supreme business of those

who have legitimate government in their charge to see that it is not used in such a way as to give levers to the kind of arbitrary power that always waits in the by-ways of human affairs waiting to destroy it.

The present Government has just correctly said it will not use the power of the State to interfere with the miners and faces the prospect that its authority will be challenged by other workers under state employment. In the case of the miners, Mrs Thatcher saw that she was confronted by a power, and she sensibly retreated before the Government's head was in any danger. The best style of government, however, manages things so as to avoid being drawn into positions from which the only escape is by retreat, and it is important that it should not get into such a corner again. It will only succeed in avoiding this danger if it gives much more serious thought than it appears to have done so far to the social realities underlying the challenges to its authority.

The special problem of Britain lies in its industrial relations. Of course, that is not all there is to it. We are in a world recession which has been produced largely by the politico-economics of oil (itself caused by the oil producers' new awareness of their power), and other countries whose lot we have envied, West Germany, for instance, have not escaped it. But we are harder hit than most because we are a special case. We went into recession quicker than our competitors, and it is by no means clear that we shall emerge correspondingly more quickly.

The problem is two-headed. Organized labour has sensed its corporate power across industry but has too often failed to learn how to use it constructively. Governments have learnt to fear this power, but not

The best style of government manages... to avoid being drawn into positions from which the only escape is by retreat

to harness it to their legitimate authority. Wise trade union leaders understand the danger, and although they are tied in an old relationship with one of the two political parties, most of them are as careful as they can be not to adopt courses that might threaten the legitimacy of government when either party is in power.

Indeed, the greatest strength that legitimacy possesses is the wish of the majority of those whose own interest moves it to challenge the decisions of government not to push their challenge to the point at which legitimacy of government is brought into question. The wise Mr Joe Gormley put it very clearly the other day in an interview in the *Daily Mail* when, acknowledging that the miners had forced one government to the country, he added: "We can't get into the way of thinking that this is something we can do again and again."

"For next time," he said, "whatever government we end up with—left or right—they are going to take action to make sure that it can't happen a third time." In other words, if trade unions use their industrial strength to change governments,

eventually it will be the constitution of the country and the trade unions which will be changed.

Legitimacy must never rest its authority on destruction and it seems to me that some new means are now needed to draw the power of organized labour to its defence. On the Government's side is the fact that most of those who are critical aspects of its policy are as much concerned as anyone else to uphold the legitimacy of government.

To suggest this sort of change is not to challenge the essential diagnosis of the Government that state spending is too high, tends to be undisciplined and ought to be cut. But what is the Government to do if, as well as the political and human pressures which drive it to avoid the kind of retrenchment that would damage the social services or defence, it is also under pressure from organized labour, with its enormous wrecking potential, to spend money that should not be spent to preserve jobs or raise wages in the nationalized industries? (There is, in fact, a distinction between the two and it does not follow that we can draw conclusions from the miners' successful fight for jobs and apply it to the water-workers' drive for higher wages.)

The Government, while it should not abandon the application of cash limits to the spending authorities that call on public money, should find means by which they can be applied flexibly and with consultation. The coal industry, faced with a falling demand for coal, high stocks and un-economic pits, needs a programme which carries the consent of the miners—and that, of course, is the direction in which the Government is being driven by events.

In the steel industry, the Government has been obliged to commit another huge injection of public money—and here Mrs Thatcher does not conceal her belief that if steel could be made profitable, it should be denationalized and freed from the political involvement that has bedevilled it. But in the last analysis, the power of the steelworkers (because of the power of the product) does not match that of the miners—and for the coalminers as for most other nationalized industries, denationalization is not an option, for various historic reasons.

So we come back to the question whether the Government should look for new forms of consultation within the industries for which it is directly responsible, involving some kind of direct worker consultation. More widely, there is the case I have argued previously for the Government to make it its business to put more by legislation a system of industrial democracy.

Yes, of course it is harder to do so here with our different union structure, our lack of an industrial law which protects employer as well as employee, our much larger public sector, than it was in Germany. But this is no reason for not making the attempt—and I hope to discuss ways and means in a future article.

This Budget may mark the point at which the Government can reasonably begin to turn policy round with sufficient economic justification. But when it re-states its financial strategy, it should try to generate some new ideas (franchise talking to the CBI and the TUC is not enough) for harnessing the cooperation of the workers instead of ignoring the reality of their power except when ministers have to flee before it.

## Dr Marshall on the nuclear tightrope

Dr. Walter Marshall achieved his life's ambition 13 years ago when he was made director of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's research establishment at Harwell.

It was a job he loved; the pinnacle of a successful career which had begun with a first in mathematical physics from Birmingham University and taken him rapidly through the hierarchy of nuclear science. With some misgivings he was tempted into the part-time post of chief scientist at the Department of Energy under Mr Eric Varley, the new secretary of state, but disagreements with Mr Varley's successor, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, led to a disillusioned return to the authority as deputy chairman. It seemed his brush with government had been a wrong decision. He now had no precise role and his chances of succeeding Sir John Hill, as chairman, seemed slim.

The Conservatives return to power brought Dr Marshall back into favour. His belief that Britain should build the American designed pressurized water reactor (PWR), which, despite the accident at Three Mile Island, has proved both cheap and relatively reliable, found a sympathetic hearing, and long before Sir John Hill was in the job, he was told he had the job.

He started this week, inheriting an authority with a suspect track record and uncertain future.

It is easy to be hard on the atomic energy authority. It grew out of the nuclear weapons programme and achieved early and dramatic success by opening up time the world's first commercial scale civil atomic energy generating plant at Calder Hall in Cumberland in 1956. Britain was on a route of gas cooled reactors. The Americans, who because of their worldwide marketing power and the size of their home market were bound to have the most important influence on standard reactor design, were to choose light water reactors.

The UKAEA intended to improve the earlier Calder Hall design to an advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (AGR) which was seen as a stepping stone to the helium-cooled High Temperature Reactor, which was one of several possible high future technologies.

In 1964, on the advice of the authority, the Government chose the AGR, then only a prototype, in preference to the light water designs, for the next stage of the British nuclear programme. The AGR proved far more difficult to scale up to commercial application than had been expected.

In 1972 the Conservative Government set up the Nuclear Power Advisory Board, which was intended to bring together all interested parties to review which reactor should be chosen. The UKAEA had by then developed a prototype Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor (SGHWR) and a High Temperature Reactor (HTR). Sir John Hill, the then chairman, told the parliamentary select committee on science and technology that the authority was in a position to produce a design for either of these reactors or for an AGR for construction to start the following year.

Mr Varley chose the SGHWR only to find the authority recommending it to be abandoned two years later. Mr Wedgwood Benn was forced back on the AGR with the intention, reaffirmed by the new Conservative administration, to order an American designed PWR providing its safety could be proved for British conditions and it passed a public inquiry.

Critics of the UKAEA complain that it has consistently been too interested in the technology and the little involved in the commercial side of its designs. Its background in weaponry has tended to lead to a secretive style of working exacerbated by the highly technical, and to the layman, unintelligible language in which its findings are reported and in which its recommendations are based.

The UKAEA's mistakes have not been to develop too many machines, but to underestimate the challenge of converting prototypes into commercial designs.

Dr Marshall's method both as director of Harwell and as chief scientist at the Department of Energy has been to inject much hard commercialism research as possible. Under leadership Harwell branched out into contract research industry and he set up a review system for research proposals, which the authority believes its research creates.

That in itself will not prove wrong recommendations he made in the future, nor does define what the future role the authority should be.



Dr Walter Marshall: making things happen.

As the select committee on science and technology in its report on the Government's nuclear programme last week, the PWR is not a UKAEA design and most of the design work on the AGR has now passed to the commercial companies concerned. Dr Marshall said that his function was to support the AGR programme and do research primarily on safety, to launch the PWR.

Its role as a designer of present generation systems, seems to be over. In its report on the Government's nuclear programme last week, the PWR is not a UKAEA design and most of the design work on the AGR has now passed to the commercial companies concerned. Dr Marshall said that his function was to support the AGR programme and do research primarily on safety, to launch the PWR.

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But its main task must be to examine future energy technologies. Dr Marshall believes its work will remain predominantly nuclear. It is collaborating in the European fusion research project at Culham, but its main project is to develop a uranium saving fast reactor.

This research has reached the stage where the next logical development would be to go to a commercial demonstration project. The French have already taken that step. But the cost is astronomical. The cost could be defrayed by international collaboration and it is hoped that a decision on who Britain's partners in the Government should be made by the end of the year.

After that, the main task must be to examine future energy technologies. Dr Marshall believes its work will remain predominantly nuclear. It is collaborating in the European fusion research project at Culham, but its main project is to develop a uranium saving fast reactor.

Much more work can be done before then, but to content, the authority has committed itself to its development without having the go ahead for the next. Too early a start of the CEBR would compound the complaints over a lack of commercial viability which can be aimed at the sector. But Dr Marshall is a man who makes things happen.

Nicholas Hirs

## You can tell a good joke

I had a brief and curious encounter the other day with a customer. As well as my cartoon activities, I run a small gallery devoted to selling cartoon originals and graphics, and occasionally (in spite of the recession) we have customers. This particular customer, a charming, intelligent lady with a fine figure of a cheque book behind her, bought one of my cartoons. After expressing delight that I was the creator of this work of art, she asked: "Did you do the caption as well?"

I was then torn between a desire to escort her to the door and a need to keep the cash flow flowing. "Why do you ask?" "Oh," she said, "I thought you might have stolen the idea from someone."

I cite this bizarre exchange as a reason for writing this short piece. I feel I should stand up and try to explain what I do for a living.

I do not, for example, simply stay in bed all morning, merely to die at three in the afternoon, both eat and steal a few jokes. The Times likes to see my gloomy face at some point in the day and my other clients need to have their faces washed and brightened by my presence in their lives. Here is how I work.

I get up about 8.30 am—reluctantly. I eat a small breakfast and shave a small portion of my face. I dress and drive to my studio. I look at the clutter of years of old drawings and magazines, and shudder. Must tidy all this tomorrow, I say to myself. I sharpen pencils, read my mail, put on some music, then go out for a second breakfast.

During the day I grapple with bits of dverising work, illustrate articles and think of jokes. At the end of the afternoon on three days of the week, I go to *The Times*. I consult the oracles about the choice of subject. There is nothing funny happening in the world. I try to find a fresh approach to some old problems. I read the papers. I listen to the radio. I even talk to journalists. I hope to find a joke lurking somewhere among the clutter of my desk and mind.

Jokes are about making unexpected connections. They join up the invisible dots between two subjects. If they work, people laugh and if they don't, people seem to get annoyed. A dull article might still be infor-

All I can think of is HELP!



native, but an unfunny joke is irritating.

I never planned to be a cartoonist. It happened to me over the years. In the same way, one acquires a mortgage and grey hairs.

A professional cartoonist has to perform to order. You can have flu, the plague and a druff in your soul, but the newspaper must go to press and editors are very reluctant to print a blank space on their front page.

And not only must you produce what you must produce something that will make people laugh. After all these years, I still don't understand this strange mechanism. It is a bit like doing a crossword, where you know there must be a solution and all it needs is sweat and tearing up pieces of paper. And every once in a while a good joke will pop into one's head like a golden bonus, and you can recognize it immediately as funny and even better, true. I tend to prefer jokes which tell you something about people.

My jokes reflect my attitudes to life, which is why I cannot steal them from anyone else. I do not put on a cynical, pessimistic hat when considering the day's news and then go home to become a normal jolly person. I am a cynical pessimist who happens to be able to make and draw jokes. The gloom feeds my work, and I imagine that it is simply my good luck that this slant on life matches the mood of Britain today. In fact, events nowadays cutstrip my wildest gloom. Who could have ever imagined Great Britain having over two and a half million unemployed? What pessimist could invent such wholesale despair?

The problem for a cartoonist today is that he must read the news and still be able to laugh. Meanwhile I will go and have another cup of tea so as to delay for another ten minutes the agony of trying to be funny. If you know of a good joke that I can read, please send it to me in a plain brown envelope, c/o *The Times*. Thank you.

Mel Calman

Bernard Levin

## Ludwig, what more can I say?

Only of Beethoven can we say, in this absolutely crucial sense, "Others abide our question, thou art free"

emptiness! Even the flaming ramparts of the world might fall.

Beethoven chose to make all right in the end. He built the ramparts up. He blew with his mouth for the second time, and again the goblins were scattered. He brought back the gods of splendour, the gods of youth, the magnificence of life and of death, and amid the vast roarings of a superhuman joy, he led his Fifth Symphony to its conclusion. But the goblins were there. They could return. He had said so bravely, and that is why one can trust Beethoven when he says other things.

And that also is why I write rarely about Beethoven. I think that the weakening hold of Beethoven is the result of the misapprehension corrected in the past. Beethoven's supreme optimism and faith in man is easily mistaken, at any rate in the symphonies (even Muller has no reservations about the quartets), for the limited human optimism of men like the Wilcozes, or President Roosevelt. In fact, it is far wider and deeper, and that "healthy human impulse" though real and necessary, is only a speck of dust floating in the vast cosmos of Beethoven's understanding. That is obvious in *Bach*; but the "vast roarings of a superhuman joy" in Beethoven are so overwhelming (facing account, after all, for his unassailable position as the most popular of all composers) that one can only say: "Beethoven appears to be another, that is worth saying, but it has been said, and does not lend itself to saying repeatedly."

Whereas in Mozart... But I came here this morning to write about Beethoven, and write about Beethoven I will. For there is one aspect of his genius that is, most strangely, rarely discussed. True, it involves a hypothetical argument, and no doubt that puts off many to whom the point has occurred; but I have long felt that Occam's Razor can cut you badly if you play about with it once too often, so here goes: *hypothesis fingo*.

Many artists have died too young. In music, three, perhaps four, have done so after the age of 30. Among the most profound explorers of the spirit ever to live briefly through mortality. With the fourth—Purcell—I am too little acquainted to speak with any confidence; the others, of course, are Mozart, who died at 35, Schubert, who died at 32, and Beethoven, who died at 57. And there is a profoundly important difference between the first two and the third, which has nothing to do with the fact that Beethoven lived for more than two decades longer than Mozart and Schubert did. The difference can be seen if we put it like this. Suppose Mozart had lived to be 65, and gone on to the end in the full creative flow of his life, that is, he would have lived for more than two decades longer than Mozart and Schubert did. The difference can be seen if we put it like this. Suppose Mozart had lived to be 65, and gone on to the end in the full creative flow of his life, that is, he would have lived for more than two decades longer than Mozart and Schubert did.

The same is true of Schubert. If he had written another 600 songs (and he could, says Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Gerald Moore would certainly have recorded the lot) there is no likelihood that the fecundity of his genius would have been any less great than the end that it was. He would not have caught up with him yet.

I have read, or possibly dreamed, that Beethoven once contemplated writing a *King Lear* opera. Just stop for a moment and imagine in which March of the Knights, the Curse on Goneril and Regan, the Storm, the music for "O you men of stone." You will, I think, need to buy a very tall hat.

But with Beethoven we realize, if we stop and think for a moment that we have no idea at all of what his 14th symphony would sound like, or his

bird-like mannerisms, and he was sedulously demonstrating why Chile could not allow political rights to those who advocated violence or class struggle, and how the new constitution would restore stability and democracy, making Chile just like Britain.

At this moment the tea party was joined by Julian Amery, the Member for Brighton who, adopting his most Churchillian manner, declared that Britain had no democracy, and never had had.

The bewildered Guzman was treated to a lecture on parliament, "the voice of the people" and ministers, who were "simply the liaison officers between parliament and the Queen, the armed forces and the civil service, who really run the country." Amery went on: "A good minister can change policy 10 per cent, most ministers one per cent, some not at all."

The architect of Chile's future looked like a little boy who had just had his pile of bricks kicked over. "It would be difficult to have that in Chile," he conceded.

"Chile's problems are difficult for us to understand,"

soothed Griffiths. Not half as difficult as Britain's problems to a Chilean.

Whine bars

An architect who has spent almost all his working life in the employ of one of the country's biggest brewing groups is not the sort of man you might expect to find defending the traditional British drinking ambience. But Ben Davis, whose book *The Traditional English Pub* is published today, has not allowed his years' Allied Breweries to diminish his conviction that attempts to transform the old-fashioned pub into a cross between a motorway café and an amusement arcade are misguided and destructive.

The book is packed with much good sense. Davis comes across as an arch-conservative, who deplores not only plastic table tops and "the infestation of juke-boxes, one-armed bandits, pin tables and amusement machines which now buzz, click, bleep, chatter and caterwaul in almost every bar of the land", but also proposals to alter or extend the present licensing hours. Not only that, he objects to pubs which

allow children and, horror of horrors, believes that sexual segregated bars should be allowed to continue.

The Architectural Press which is responsible for the handsomely produced volume has decided to mark its celebration with a competition for ideas on what the ideal pub should be like in the 1980s. The prizes consist of various quantities of wine, which is not inappropriate in the light of Davis's comment that many wine bars, with their wood-paneled interiors, and vaulted ceilings, and subdued decors, look more like pubs than the real thing.

Today's joke was flown fresh from Warsaw last night. There are two possible ways to solve the Polish crisis: the normal way would be for the Archangel Gabriel and four of his angels to descend from Heaven in a mighty whirlwind and dispel the national troubles in a flash of lightning. The miraculous way would be for the Poles to solve it themselves.

Alan Hamilton

## LONDON DIARY

### The party's just beginning

I hear that the transmutation of the Council for Social Democracy into a public political party of substance is only a matter of weeks away, and the show could be on the road about a month after the last of the recruits to the ranks of the fledgling party of the centre has formally severed his existing political links.

The Limehouse lefties, or Tories, or traitors, or true Brits, depending on your point of view, led by Messrs Jenkins, Rodgers and Owen, recently moved into temporary headquarters in a soon-to-be-demolished building in Victoria, and have been greatly encouraged by the offers of help—and more importantly, cash—which have been pouring in.

For those who regard the emergence of a British political centre as at best a nine-day wonder, I have to report that detailed and long-term plans have been laid for financing the new movement.

The party will eschew the

now decidedly lean bank balances of big business, the traditional source of Tory funds, nor will it expect much from the coffers of the trade union movement. While any contribution from either source is unlikely to be returned, the Social Democrats are planning to rely heavily for their cash flow on annual subscriptions from members.

A final decision has not yet been taken on the size of the annual subscription, but figures of between £5 and £10 a head are circulating. With an expectation of 100,000 paid-up members by the spring, rising to 250,000 a year later, the centre could enjoy a substantial cash flow from £10 membership fee, and could even survive comfortably on a five per cent.

Once the party has been established, and the subscriptions are flowing in, the constituency parties, which will undoubtedly mushroom around the country will be expected to be largely self-financing. Contributions from headquarters will be kept to a minimum, with only the most deserving cases qualifying for central assistance.

But all that lies in the future, as does the name of the new

party, for which suggestions will be solicited. (Anyone with a Latin name, or a name and I will give it an airing.) Discussions in Limehouse and Victoria have so far proved inconclusive: some favour the Social Democratic Party, others wish to remain as the Council for Social Democracy, while still others have offered the New Labour Party.

Meanwhile, some of the defuncting Labour MPs have been experiencing some difficulty in making their intended switch of allegiance to the new council. In more than one case, I understand, members of management committees of constituency Labour parties have found it "inconvenient" to hold meetings to hear the MP's regulation valedictory message, and as a result are delaying departures.

### Ferrous medal

Ian MacGregor, the American Scot brought in by the Government at enormous expense to tackle the apparently insoluble task of saving the British Steel Corporation from total bankruptcy and collapse, flew to Chicago yesterday to collect



a gold medal "for notable scientific and industrial achievement."

Previous winners of the John Fritz Medal, given by a group of five American engineering societies, have included such notable fathers of invention as Alexander Graham Bell, Orville

Wright, Edison and Marconi. The award has been made regularly since 1902.

Gregor's plan ruthlessly to strip British Steel of all but its few profitable components, a plan which is by no means certain to succeed, as a candidate for a prize, unless it was an Oscar for talking the rigidly monetarist ideologue Sir Keith Joseph into parting with so much cash for what is not so much a lame duck as an endangered species.

I gather, however, that the award refers to MacGregor's previous incarnation as an outstanding figure in the American mining industry.

### Chile reception

The other day Eldon Griffiths, Tory MP for Bury St Edmunds, entertained the Chilean ambassador and Señor Jaime Guzman, an adviser to General Pinochet, to tea at the House of Commons.

Guzman, a lawyer, academic and sometime excommunicate, was using the opportunity to explain the finer points of the new Chilean constitution which he helped draft. He is a small, single-minded man with precise

bird-like mannerisms, and he was sedulously demonstrating why Chile could not allow political rights to those who advocated violence or class struggle, and how the new constitution would restore stability and democracy, making Chile just like Britain.

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Alan Hamilton

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# CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

A review to mark the centenary of the Society of Chemical Industry

Chemicals continue to play an ever more important role in our everyday lives—in the food we eat and the clothes we wear, in the drugs we take and the furnishings we use to decorate our homes.

The range of products—dyes, vaccines, insecticides, fertilizers, plastic goods—made by the industry from natural substances like oil, gas, coal, salt, sulphur and vegetable matter is constantly growing. It is not surprising that over recent decades the chemicals industry has earned a deserved reputation for innovation and rapid growth.

Between 1960 and 1973, for example, the petrochemicals industry, which accounts for about 80 per cent of total chemicals demand, grew in Western Europe at the rate of more than 15 per cent a year.

In part, this was due to general economic growth, which in turn stimulated demand from industry and society for chemicals. Equally, it was due to the ability of chemicals, frequently as new formulations, to win new markets by substituting for traditional materials like glass, steel, wood and china. A recent report by Shell suggests that new markets remain to be won and that fears that the chemicals industry may have reached maturity are premature.

In the United Kingdom, a yardstick by European Community standards of growth, the chemicals industry has been a star performer, outstripping total manufacturing growth rates by a ratio five to one over the 1970s. Its output was worth £6,700m. The 1980 figure will be higher, although output itself will be found to have declined.

The industry is a massive employer, accounting for about 18 per cent of investment in the United Kingdom.

international. The main American companies, such as Dow, Du Pont and Monsanto, have sizable investments in the United Kingdom, as do their large West German competitors such as BASF and Hoechst. By the same token, United Kingdom companies are selling and investing in increasing amounts overseas, especially elsewhere in Europe and in the United States. ICI, for example, had only 41 per cent of its sales in Britain last year. About half of its planned investment will also be overseas.

Even for companies like ICI the past has not been one of wholly uninterrupted success. The dislocation of oil supplies and the subsequent steep price rises from 1973 onwards sent shock waves through an industry based largely on oil and gas. Nevertheless, the industry can regard the past with satisfaction.

The future, however, is being viewed with trepidation. Of the present, it can be said only that it must be endured. By any standards, 1980 was a terrible year, during which nearly all of the large oil companies, both in the United Kingdom and overseas, slipped into the red.

The difficulties first appeared about March when business suddenly dropped. As one ICI executive later described it: "We all fell over the cliff." As Western Europe slid into recession, chemical companies experienced falls in demand of as much as 35 per cent.

Market difficulties were aggravated by serious overcapacity for the production of many bulk products, like ethylene, the so-called "building block" of the chemicals industry, and the challenges of American producers enjoying substantially higher energy and feedstock costs.

Prices slumped as some producers broke ranks and sought to maintain market share by selling cheap. Mar-

gins were squeezed and soon most companies were admitting mounting losses, in the third or fourth quarter, on many products. Dow, for example, made an unprecedented loss on its plastics business. By the third quarter, Bayer, Hoechst and BASF were reporting a slump in profits.

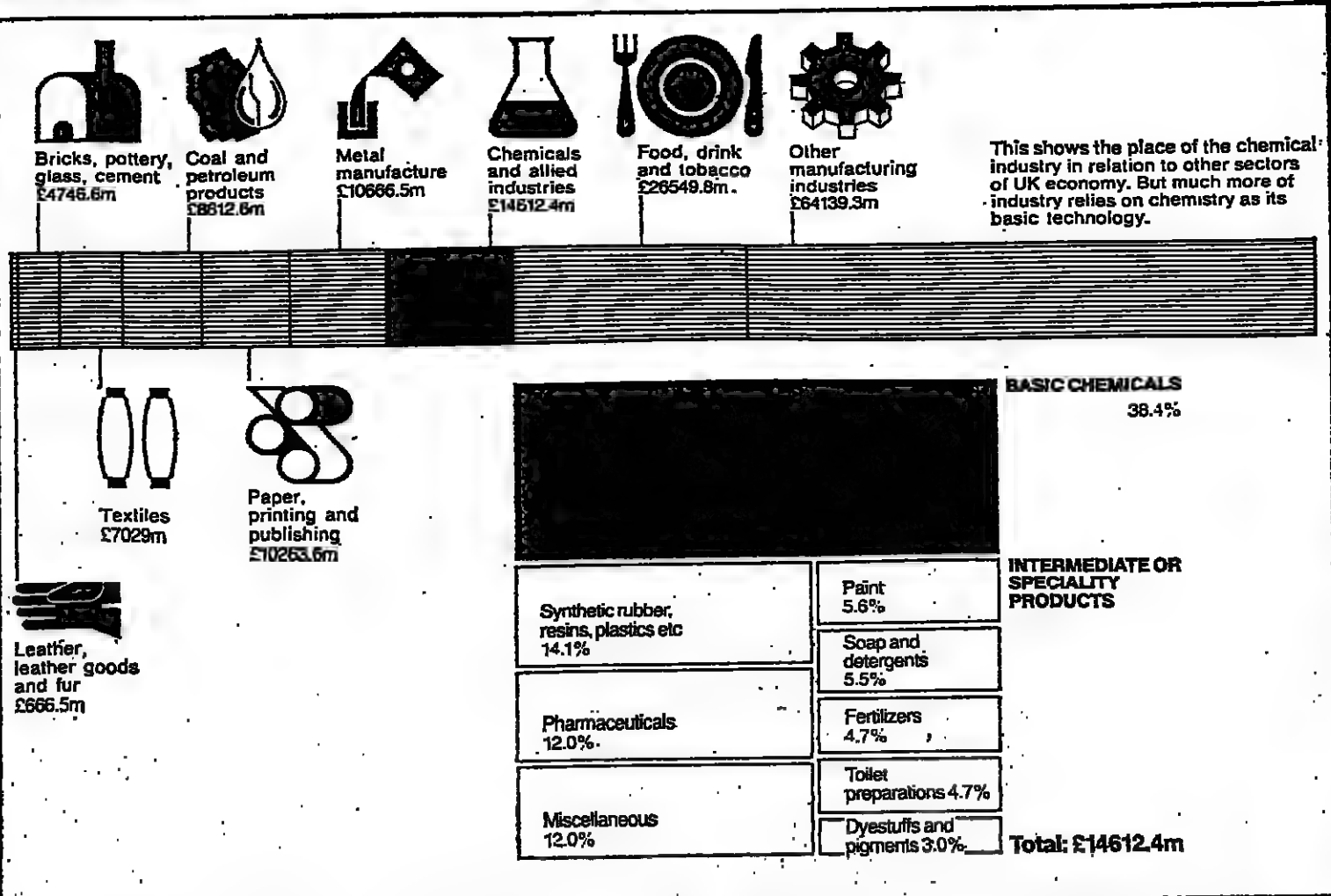
In Britain which had entered the recession earlier, things have been even worse. ICI slipped into the red, announcing a £10m loss for the third quarter. Final profits for the year are expected to be about £220m, against £560m last year. BP chemicals admitted operating losses in the United Kingdom for the nine months to September of £84m.

Even the record trading surplus was described as a "bitter, sugar-coated pill" by Mr Martin Trowbridge, director general of the Chemical Industries Association. He explained that much of the overseas business had been bought at minimal or no profit.

Few companies escaped having to slim down their operations. Not only was capacity (in some cases only 60 per cent used) being under-used because of falling demand, but some businesses were suffering from long-term, structural changes in the supply-demand equation.

ICI Fibres shed almost 4,000 jobs. BP Chemicals made more than 1,000 redundant in South Wales and gave a warning that a further "substantial" loss of jobs would be necessary. Shell told of plans to reduce its workforce by several hundred.

Undoubtedly, the recession has been more ferocious in its impact on the chemicals industry in the United Kingdom than elsewhere. Moreover, the industry's ability to cope successfully with its effects have been weakened by the high cost of borrowing and the relative strength of the pound. For companies like ICI, which last year had exports worth about £1,300m, the buoyancy of sterling has



been crucial. For every 1 cent improvement in the value of the pound, ICI lost about £5m on sales and gained about £2.5m on import costs, a Commons Select Committee on trade was told.

Some of these problems are probably likely to be of only short-term importance. Although the Chemical Industries Association forecast a 9 per cent decline in output in 1980 and a further fall this year, most longer-term estimates are more optimistic. The Shell report expected petrochemicals to grow at 4 per cent a year, outstripping industrial growth. Last summer industry experts meeting in Birmingham were encouraged to hear forecasts by Cambridge Econometrics of 3.6 per cent between now and 1990.

Nevertheless, British producers have voiced their concern about longer-term problems which could inhibit growth when economies climb out of recession. Some of these problems are essentially external; they focus on the likely threat to markets posed by competition from elsewhere, such as the Middle East, the state-trading nations of Eastern

## Is there enough control of pesticides?

More than one third of the world's potential harvest is destroyed by pests, plant diseases and weeds at a cost estimated at more than £30,000m a year.

With about 4,000 million human mouths constantly opening for food, agricultural chemicals designed to maximize crops have become as much a part of man's diet as his daily bread. Synthetic pesticides have been increasingly used over the past 60 years, but it is only in the past 20 or so that evidence of their side effects has emerged. With that unpleasant discovery has risen a cry of anguish from environmental groups throughout the world, exerting powerful influences on governments whose own concern is reflected in the enormous growth of regulatory control.

If agriculture survived for thousands of years without the use of pesticides, do we need them now? And, if we do need them, are the controls sufficient or are they, as some scientists fear, so ill-considered and superfluous that they are damaging the chemical industry?

Mr Martin Trowbridge, director general of the United Kingdom's Chemical Industries Association, believes that EEC attempts to harmonize regulations threaten to bury the industry under a mountain of paper.

Mr Tom Burke, vice-chairman of Friends of the Earth, fears we may be heading for an ecological disaster because of the failure to control the industry.

Dr Alan Robertson, a main board member of ICI, and an expert on the impact of environmental legislation, believes that with the best of intentions some environmentalists have become "enemies of the people".

Mr Burke said: "What frightens me is that some toxicological problems may have a latency of a quarter of a century. When we finally identify a problem that may have been building up unknown to us for that length of time there may be nothing we can do to solve it. We may be leaving an inheritance for our children that will be totally destructive. We have practically no idea of the eco-toxicological effects of the chemicals we use."

"Controls on the chemicals industry do not go far enough. It is an enormous industry which devotes the minutest fraction of its resources to anticipating the consequences of its activities."

"I have no sympathy with the view that the chemical industry is being regulated out of existence. Controls may be crude but governments legislate only when they have tried every other

continued on next page



## More and more now, what we do today will make life better for them tomorrow.

When you're a major international chemical company, you are bound to be affected by the state of the world.

But even in these difficult times, ICI has many strengths.

There is our technical inventiveness. Our capital resources. The diversity of our activities and our geographical spread. And there is the optimism and resilience of the people who work with us.

More and more now, our locally managed companies serve the needs of local people. More and more of their products are helping the rest of the world...increasing the yield of crops...fighting diseases...bringing ICI expertise to developing countries.

Wherever we are, we are part of a community. We are included in its daily life. And life will always go on.



## The Pathfinders

From a poster drawn by 10 year old Rachel Beaumont of Barnsley as part of a community project.



## Clash of views over best use of marine riches

Decisions on how to use the oil and gas riches of the North Sea will have a crucial bearing on the development of the British chemical industry over the next few years.

First, offshore resources present a unique opportunity to create a new phase of petrochemical investment in plant which would use materials made available by the gas-gathering pipeline. Second, the use of oil and gas is at the heart of the continuing debate over what industry leaders see as Britain's "energy paradox". This is the view—which is contested—that despite its considerable offshore wealth, industry in the United Kingdom pays significantly more for the energy it uses than do its principal European competitors.

The Government accepts much of what the chemical industry has to say on the first of these two points, and last year accepted in principle plans for a pipeline system in the North Sea which would gather and carry to a landfall in the north-east of Scotland gas that is being wastefully flared on production platforms. Natural gas worth up to £380m a year is being squandered in this way.

Ministers are still confident that the pipeline system can be completed within five years, despite delays in formation of a pipeline company, which the Government insists will have a high proportion of private equity.

The cost of the scheme, which envisages a line to the Stafford field in the north and the Fulmar field in the south, has already climbed from an estimated £1,100m to £2,000m, making it the largest single investment in Britain during the 1980s.

What interests the chemicals industry is who will obtain the natural gas liquids (NGLs) to be made available. These are valued as a raw material for petrochemicals. British Gas will take the methane, but there has been fierce, and often acrimonious, competition over allocation of ethane (a much-prized alternative feedstock to naphtha in the production of ethylene), propane, butane and the other higher condensates.

The debate has almost resolved itself into a battle between the "establishment" chemicals companies and the "newcomers". The former comprises ICI, BP,

Shell and Esso. They want the NGLs piped south from landfall at St Fergus, north of Aberdeen, to feed ethylene crackers already built at Grangemouth and Wylton or under construction at Mossburn, in Fife.

The newcomers are Dow Chemical, which plans £400m investment in a new cracker and downstream development at Nigg, on the Cromarty Firth, and Highland Hydrocarbons. The latter, with a projected investment of about £845m, is the most ambitious. It envisages a new cracker at Nigg to operate on a "common user" basis. West German chemical companies have indicated interest in investing in downstream plant to produce plastics from the ethylene. Occidental and Conoco have also declared an interest in using ethane in new crackers.

The pay-off in terms of jobs and capacity for orders-starved industry is not certain. Dow and Highland claim to offer most, if only because their schemes represent new investment. However, the establishment companies, disparagingly dubbed the Gang of Four, say that the demand and supply of ethylene is such that should the northern schemes go ahead they would have to close existing plants, making large numbers of workers redundant.

They are supported in this view of the market by recent estimates by CEFIC, the European chemicals federation, which suggest that ethylene capacity in Western Europe in 1984 will total 17,500,000 tonnes. Consumption will be only 13,900,000 tonnes.

The Government is mindful of these factors, although it is trying hard not to become an arbiter of the various proposals. The companies have been told to start discussing terms for the gas with the British National Oil Corporation, which has been confirmed in the role of wholesaler. In an obscurely worded statement last December, the Government let it be known that all options were still on, and that commercial criteria would decide who gets the gas.

Whatever the destination of the ethane—and it looks more likely to go south in the early years of pipeline operation—the other gases will almost certainly go

north. The Government is confident that they will lay the foundation for petrochemical development and several hundred new jobs on the Cromarty Firth.

On the subject of energy pricing, the Government shifted only slightly from the position it took more than 18 months ago. This is that, broadly speaking, energy prices paid by industry in the United Kingdom are in line with those paid elsewhere. Moreover, ministers have emphasized repeatedly that economic prices must be paid for energy. Oil and gas wealth would not be used to subsidize industry.

The chemicals industry has been campaigning on energy prices and supply for some time. The supply fear—relating to the inability of industry to obtain gas sup-

plies, largely because of the fight from oil to gas by domestic consumers—has receded during the present recession. But it is likely to reappear if and when the industry begins to grow again.

The campaign on prices has been taken up not merely by other energy-intensive industries but by the Confederation of British Industry. The "paradox" is explained by Mr David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury and chairman of the all-party group for the chemical industry. "Notwithstanding our self-sufficiency in oil and gas, energy prices to industry users in Britain are at least 20 to 25 per cent higher than on the Continent."

"This is an anomaly which must be corrected for British industry as a whole, and it is right that industry should

speak strongly to the Government on this point."

Government, the industry and the energy supply industries have been unable to agree on comparative figures. The facts and policy considerations of the matter are still being raked over, not least by an energy task force set up through the National Economic Development Office, and by a Commons select committee.

Most parties to the debate accept that such differentials as existed have probably narrowed in recent months. The Government is adamant in its determination not to shift ground on energy pricing, although it has taken some small initiatives. British Gas, for example, is re-examining the case for introducing new types of "interruptible supply" contracts. There is evidence that the scale of some gas price

## Is there enough control of pesticides?

continued from previous page way of getting the industry to foresee the repercussions. Legislation is not a first response.

There is a whole series of ways of improving crop yields by understanding botany better. We are using high yield crop strains produced by the same companies that produce the chemicals. The kind of agriculture we have is heavily promoted by the chemical industry.

Dr Robertson said "I think we can state without fear of contradiction, that the use of pesticides has conferred and continues to confer great benefits on mankind and it is difficult to see how without them and the other contributors to good agricultural practice food production can be sustained at a rate which can match population growth."

Frequent value judgments made from the case and comfort of Western society, for example those on DDT, are not appropriately or sensibly capable of extrapolation to less developed societies with differing needs, and sometimes I wonder whether some people who claim to be friends of the earth, with the best of intentions, occasionally as the result of their actions would be better described as enemies of the people."

In a recent address to the National Agricultural Extension Association in Las

Vegas Dr Robertson said that well before the advent of voluntary legislation in the United Kingdom he had accepted its responsibility when developing pesticides to protect the interests of the consumer and the environment.

Controls have historically been most concerned with the potential effect of pesticides on the consumer (because knowledge of mammalian toxicology was more advanced than that of ecology) and very little from country to country.

Environmental regulations reflect a relative scarcity of knowledge, and they are being developed in many countries without consultation with industry. This has seriously increased the differences between guidelines in different countries. For purely bureaucratic reasons rigid national test controls have made the transfer of data between countries highly improbable.

"The result of such inflexibility is that industry has to carry out more and more testing not to elucidate the environmental impact but to satisfy the letter of the law," Dr Robertson said. "There is every chance that this trend will continue and that more and more countries, in stipulating environmental regulations will in effect invent the wheel as a result of not consulting with indus-

try and other countries who have the expertise."

The proliferation of incompatible test guidelines is greater in field testing than in laboratory testing. "On current evidence there is a field tests on environmental impact carried out in one country will be accepted in another, even when a valid scientific case can be made for the applicability of the test and its results in the country in question," Dr Robertson said.

There are indications that the case for the international harmonization of regulations and guidelines for the registration of products is slowly being accepted, and this would go a long way to reducing the onerous load placed on industry. But "harmonization itself is not sufficient," Dr Robertson said. "If, for example, harmonization was simply to accept the most rigorous conditions, then we could be harmonized out of existence. What matters is the quality of decision making."

Mr Trowbridge said that unless the European chemical industry could balance growing international bureaucracy it faced danger from "those who would seem to want to restrain, regulate and control the industry" by eroding its economic strength, destroying innovative enthusiasm,

and burying it under a mountain of forms and related paperwork.

"I am not an anti-European," Mr Trowbridge said. "We are talking of individual countries. The EEC is inevitably a multi-cultural entity and that is what people are struggling with in Brussels. We have an attempt to put together this multi-cultural entity and make some sensible judgments. But the EEC is not well developed at the moment for making judgments."

"We must be careful with these well-meaning Eurocrats that in their enthusiasm for harmonization they do not go around adding up all the most onerous requirements from each different country in the Community, and add the ones they are most likely to make some sensible judgments. But the EEC is not well developed at the moment for making judgments."

Mr Ray Grange, industry affairs director of the Chemical Industries Association, said: "There is a danger that a proper concern for wellbeing will become a neurosis and that is what we have to be sure we do not lose sight of. It is a good having the most exacting regulations, either, if you have no ability to enforce them."

Michael Horsnell

## Farm costs rise faster than food prices

Manufactured fertilizers are the oldest chemical additives used in British agriculture. Nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous were applied to the soil in the form of fertilizer in Victorian times. Such compounds are now among the least controversial and most extensively used agricultural chemicals.

Their most important feature from the point of view of farmers in 1981 is their price. Fertilizers have led the inflationary race in British agriculture since the mid-1970s. In the past six years food prices have risen more slowly than the cost of farming, and farmers have complained regularly about the extra costs demanded of them by the multinational suppliers of agrochemicals.

The use of chemical fertilizers in Britain has risen throughout the twentieth century, with a sharp acceleration in consumption since the Second World War. The immense increases in crop and livestock yields secured in the past 35 years would have been inconceivable without lavish use of fertilizer.

There is a direct relationship between increases in fertilizer application and in crop yields. There is a less direct, but close link with output of milk and meat as well, because the quantity and quality of those products depend on the quality of animal feed. Grass, used fresh in grazing and as conserved feed in the form of hay and silage, is the most important farm animal feedstuff in the country.

As yields rise, there is a steady acceleration in the required rate of increase in fertilizer use. In places, large gains, when yields have become high, it takes large and costly applications of

fertilizer to push them higher. Wheat output has doubled in Britain since the Second World War, but the use of nitrogen fertilizer has increased fivefold.

Increases in the amount of fertilizer used on each field were once the farmer's principal means of raising his crop yields. Now it pays him to seek other means of increasing them further, perhaps by using more modern plant varieties or by more effective pest control.

There are two important crops for which farmers believe that there is still great scope for realizing better yields through heavier doses of fertilizer, timber and grass. Foresters are keen to shorten the long waiting time between planting seedling trees and harvesting the first marketable timber. Chemical fertilizers could make a notable contribution to that if the cost could be justified.

For years government advisers have urged farmers to improve grass yields in order to increase the national supply of animal feed. There are large areas of rough grazing land in the United Kingdom in which the grass is treated as if it is an extractable natural resource, like coal or salt.

The use of chemical fertilizers on arable farms has helped to give the countryside the image of a food factory. No longer is the flowery meadow bounded by a thick hedge with a gnarled wooden gate set in the middle of it. Today's rural scene in the arable counties is one of metal barriers, concrete fence posts and taut barbed wire with empty plastic fertilizer bags flung into ditches.

Fertilizers are less controversial chemicals than pesticides, because although

blamed for making the countryside less attractive, they are not held responsible for poisoning it as well. Nevertheless there are growing worries about the impact of chemicals on water supplies, through repeated heavy doses of fertilizer which seep through the soil.

Chemical fertilizer is used so much on British farms that a reaction has set in. There is limited but growing interest in organic farming, the practitioners of which avoid using chemicals in crop production.

Although sometimes dubbed the "muck and mystery school" by conventional farmers, the organic movement is gradually widening its circle of adherents from academics and enthusiastic gardeners to the owners of conventional commercial farms.

More farmers worry about their dependence on chemical fertilizers than did a few years ago. In fashionable parlance, they wonder if they are trapped on a "high-input / high-output spiral". Costs in agriculture are rising so much faster than food prices that farmers need to increase output in order to raise the revenue needed to improve their estates and to cover existing overheads.

A series of reports comparing British dairy farms with those in some other EEC countries has been published in the past months by the Milk Marketing Board for England and Wales. They show that some European farmers can make comfortable livings on small-scale farms and lower inputs than their British counterparts.

Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

## Plant

## Growing hazard of deciding on investment

In recent years, investment decisions in the chemicals industry have become increasingly hazardous. Planners have always had a difficult time in chemicals because the lead times are so protracted: several years may elapse between conception and completion of a plant.

By the time the plant is ready to produce, the demand for its output may have evaporated or even met from elsewhere. The chances of this happening have increased since the mid-1970s because of growing uncertainty over the supply and price of energy and feedstocks, which account for a large proportion of the industry's costs.

Rollercoaster changes in the cost of, say, naphtha, a basic raw material, can upset supply-demand projections. For these reasons, managers contemplating new investment in plant in the United Kingdom will probably have two thoughts uppermost in their minds: the scope for introducing energy-saving processes, sometimes involving the use of different raw materials, and the overriding need to ensure that new plant comes on stream on time and on cost.

The industry has been more successful in pursuing the former, than achieving the latter. Nevertheless, the savings for an industry which had a bill for energy and feedstocks of about £1,500m in 1979 are obviously considerable. The scope for further cost-cutting exists. Indeed, Mr Robert Malpas, president of Halcon International, said recently that process technology offered the silver lining among the industry's gathering clouds.

This year, he said, was primarily that in which management would give top priority to energy management. A survey by the Chemical Industries Association of its members disclosed the high savings targets set by producers. Leading companies in the petrochemicals sector, for example, were hopeful that savings of 15 per cent or more could be achieved over the next 10 years.

During the 1970s, the industry's energy pattern changed markedly. Solid fuels consumption fell by 85 per cent. A variety of initiatives have been taken by the industry, frequently in co-operation with the process plant suppliers. There has been a switch to less energy-intensive processes: for example, the replacement of acetylene by ethylene as a basic feedstock. Engineering of boilers, compressors, heat exchangers and pumps has also been improved.

Savings have been achieved through large increases in plant size. The size of ammonia plants, for example, has grown tenfold. Modern plants incorporate a highly integrated energy generation and heat recovery system. Overall, these enable producers to reduce specific energy consumption by about half.

The CIA says there is little prospect of a radical substitution of energy-intensive processes for some and quickly overseas. The chemicals industry, its contractors and its process plant suppliers have spent considerable time analysing why things go wrong, and how they may be put right. There are indications that some of the labour difficulties which dog large sites everywhere in the United Kingdom are closer to being solved. The industry is still edging towards a national agreement covering all large sites, while strides are being made in prefabrication to reduce on-site work, for example.

But doubts remain, and planners embark on large-scale investment in the United Kingdom with trepidation. Work will start soon on a new ethylene cracker at Mossburn, in Fife. The main contract is worth about £300m and could lead to downstream investment running into billions of pounds.

The scramble to supply plant and to put it in place began several months ago. British companies, after some heavy lobbying, are confident that they can win a large share of the work to be let. But none of them is in any doubt that Mossburn will be a crucial test of the home industry's ability to deliver on time and to cost.

J.H.

## Society of Chemical Industry Centenary Conference Problems, Opportunities, Resources.

Cambridge, 31 March—3 April 1981

The chemical industry, a major contributor of wealth to the industrialised nations, is facing unprecedented difficulties at present. As the main event in its centenary celebrations, the Society of Chemical Industry has planned a conference specifically at generating concerted action to solve the industry's problems.

An underlying theme is the chain which runs from science the creator of resources, through technology to marketable products and service. The conference will recognise both the international nature of the chemical industry, with speakers from the UK, the US and mainland Europe, and the need for effective interaction among academics, industry, government and Society.

For full particulars of and registration form for the conference, accommodation and social programme write to:

Alan E. Kilby, Assistant Secretary  
Society of Chemical Industry

14/15 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8PS

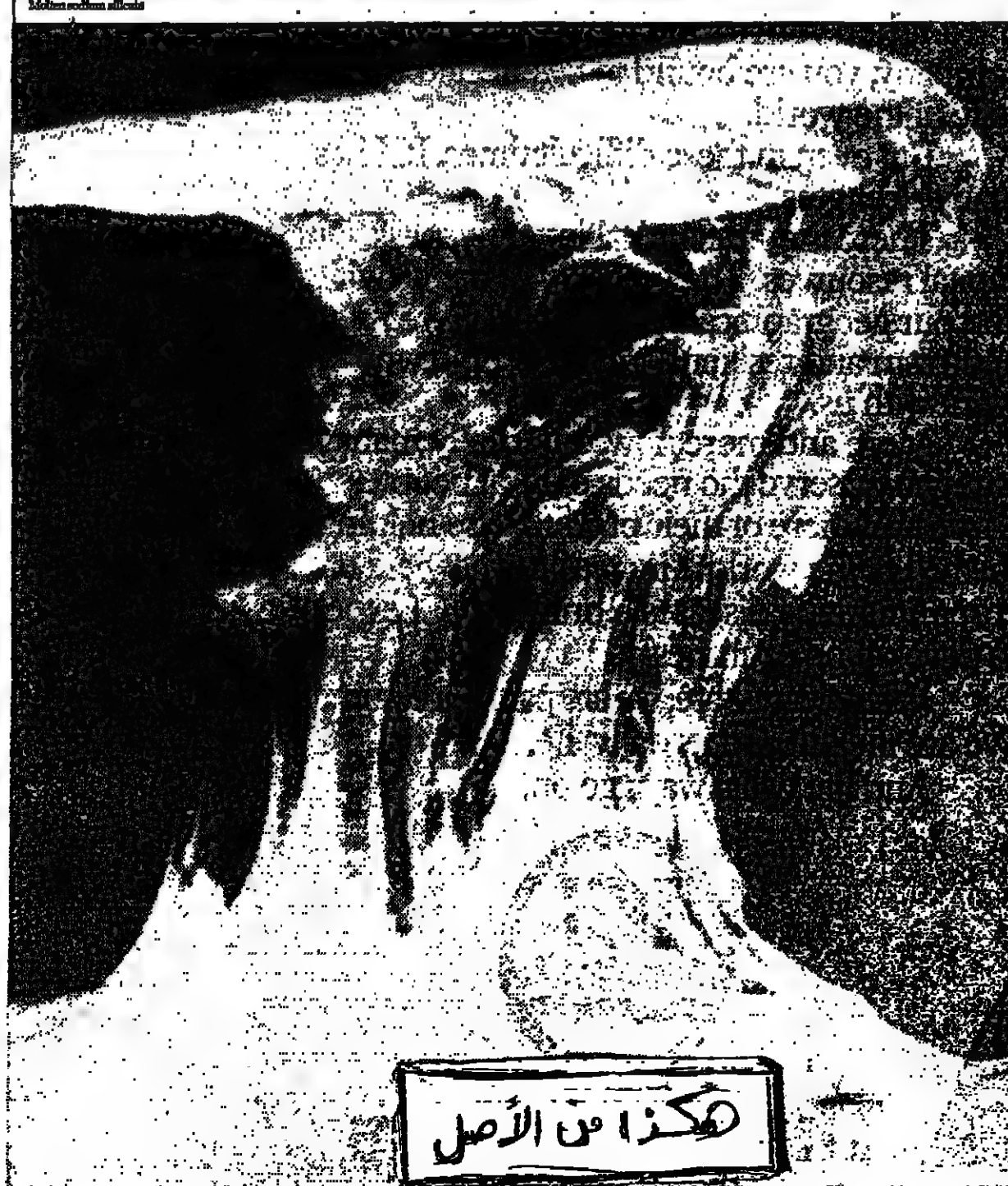
Tel: 01-235 3681

Registrations should be received by 12 March.

## In the beginning...

There was sodium silicate, manufactured by Crosfield Chemicals to improve the detergent properties of soap. But Crosfield were pioneers and since the 1870s a whole range of products has emerged from their laboratories. Metasilicates, industrial detergents and synthetic silicas all with a role to play as industries from breweries to paint manufacturers developed their technology. Later came petroleum cracking catalysts; then textile chemicals and concrete additives—a continuous process of evolution. Today, Crosfield have created a family of specialised chemicals for industry worldwide.

Crosfield  
CHEMICALS



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## Trade Race for markets

Britain has the fourth largest chemicals industry in the world, only the United States, West Germany and Japan having a larger output.

Its ability to keep pace with this leading group, in what has become a highly competitive international race is credible. After all, the industry's growth rates in the United Kingdom have meant that the industry must look largely overseas to expand sales.

However, as the runaway growth rates of the 1960s and 1970s have slowed almost to a standstill, leaders of industry have taken the opportunity to cast a backward glance at potential challenges. These may be expected to attack not only the domestic market, but also those of other markets into which they sell.

For more than a decade three main sources have posed a long-term threat to established producers. These are the Middle East countries, who are expected to move downstream from their oil interests eventually; the state-trading nations of East Europe, who are feared on account of their ability to make and sell chemicals un-

subordinated to normal Western financial disciplines; and, more remotely, emerging Third World producers. It was ironic, then, that during 1979 and to a greater extent last year, it was American producers who mounted a determined, aggressive and successful campaign to sell their goods in Europe. They did so from a position of considerable strength. In terms of most European currencies, the dollar was weak, and the Americans too enjoyed what European producers allege to be an unfair trading advantage: cheap feedstocks, because of the Washington administration's policy of holding prices below world levels.

The future impact of American imports is difficult to assess. There are already signs that volumes are dropping and will continue to do so as the American economy gains momentum and begins to absorb more sales. The Reagan administration has moved to lift controls on oil, but gas prices will not be decontrolled under present plans until 1983. It seems likely, then, that European producers, with the British in the lead, and the firmly free trade-minded West Germans in the rear, will try to press the Americans for voluntary restraint.

Talks within the Commission over changes to the generalized system of preferences for developing countries last October disclosed, too, that European producers were becoming nervous about chemicals from these sources. The Chemical Industries Association at the time called for more than 100 products to be placed on a "sensitive" list.

It is difficult for the industry to work out a consistent strategy to meet the various threats, real and imagined. Broadly, however, it is clear that producers must progressively abandon cheap bulk commodities and concentrate on those "specialties", which incorporate advanced technology and high-added value.

J.H.



CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

The way ahead

# A brave man points to opportunities

It takes a brave man to point to opportunities for the chemical industry when all the economic indicators signify a continuing recession. Yet Mr William Duncan, president of the Society of Chemical Industry, has some clear ideas of the way ahead and perhaps more importantly, of directions to be avoided.

Mr Duncan is also deputy chairman of ICI, thus his view of the development of the industry is derived from the broad history recorded by the files of this society, which celebrates its centenary this year, and from experience in an organisation that is the pace-setter for a vast sector of industry. After graduating he became a plant engineer in 1950 at the huge ICI Billingham works (now the agricultural division) and in 1966 was appointed the first president of the ambitious ICI America operation. But what contribution has a body such as the Society of Chemical Industry to make to escaping from the present difficulties?

Mr Duncan says the society is a window on the evolution of the chemical industry. It is a forum for scientists, engineers, industrialists, economists, academics and politicians, and they form a dynamic force. Hence the society is an agency for change, and more than just a group which records how chemical technology and the industry originated and where they have reached.

Over the past 100 years there have been immense changes in the raw materials and in the products of the chemical industry. The production plants operate on a vast scale and use processes undreamt of by the founders. And now the industry is again at the threshold of a fundamental change in its raw materials and its range of products, with a move from oil-based to coal-based produced feedstock and to materials and commodities made according to completely new bioscientific formulae.

In Mr Duncan's view, specific types of laboratory work, developments in production engineering, and economic and political attitudes are already moulding the future.

He accepts that nobody can be cheerful about short-term prospects. Most



Mr William Duncan, president of the Society of Chemical Industry.

chemical concerns have just emerged from a dreadful year and an upturn in trading is not yet apparent. Two crucial difficulties afflict the industry in addition to the diminished volume of business caused by recession. They are prices which are too low to recover costs and the disruptive effect of the United States chemicals made with low-cost energy and feedstock. Nevertheless he maintains that the industry has grown up by confronting difficulties with innovation.

He is anxious to discourage the sort of economic nationalism that was rampant in the 1930s, when it was fed by recession. He believes that this is not only politically disturbing but that it also suppresses innovation. Although the Society of Chemical Industry is British in origin, it provides one of the channels through which international cooperation is nurtured.

His growth experienced in the 1950s and 1960s, built on important discoveries of the 1930s and 1940s, gave rise to expectations of a permanent annual expansion of about 7 per cent. The present forecasts of a growth of about 4 per cent over the next few years therefore look meagre. But this figure is consistent

with the average rate of expansion for the first three quarters of this century, when there were several bouts of intensive development.

As Mr Duncan observes, the forecast of growth represents a doubling of capacity by the turn of the century. However that does not mean that existing processes, products and services should be doubled. He says: "Since the price of oil will increase inexorably, we shall have to produce more elegant solutions, using discoveries in the newer areas of science to make novel products, and we shall have to develop an alternative source of carbon from which to produce feedstock. It is a formidable challenge, but it is not the first time this has been done."

Mr Duncan was working at Billingham in the basic ammonia production lines were converted to heavy fuel-oil and then to steam-reforming of naphtha, a commodity that in the 1950s cost £5 a ton, compared with today's price of £175 a ton. Fundamental changes of this nature, he points out, are charted by the names of previous presidents of the society, who form a virtual roll-call of the industry's founding fathers.

The work of the first president, Professor W. H. Perkin, with aniline was the basis for the materials of the dyes, drugs and plastics industry. And that of Sir Harry McGowan, who was president at the society's jubilee anniversary, laid much of the foundation for the later development of nylon and polyester fibre.

First engineers joined the chemists to turn discovery into technology; then micro-biologists and more recently genetic engineers became involved in an industry that is spreading into almost every part of the community.

New routes to generate petrochemical feedstock are very much in the forefront of Mr Duncan's mind. He foresees several sources developing, and cites the example of Brazil's production of supplies from biomass (through fermentation of crops) and the production from coal in progress in South Africa.

Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Fibres

# Success that turned sour then bitter

The recent experiences of Europe's man-made fibre manufacturers illustrate many of the difficulties and opportunities facing the chemicals industry as a whole.

Their story is one of success turning, first, gradually sour, then bitter; and although industry leaders are putting a brave face on present problems, there are few who will confidently predict a happy ending.

According to estimates by the Dutch company Akzo, European producers of synthetic fibres lost more than £450m last year. This figure may yet prove to have been conservative, for the Italian group Montedison is thought to have lost £150m alone. While Britain's ICI admitted half-year losses of £38m. Supply and demand is still so far out of balance that Akzo recently suggested that even by 1985 there will be 25 per cent overcapacity within the industry.

Nevertheless, during 1980 and the first few weeks of 1981 much production capacity was removed, certainly painfully and arguably be- leatedly.

Last October ICI announced that it was to end large-scale production of polyester fibre after more than 40 years in which it had been in the forefront of development. Some 3,600 people will lose their jobs in the United Kingdom as a result of the decision.

Many of these will be lost in areas of already high unemployment, such as Kilroot, Northern Ireland; Ardeer, Scotland; and Pontypool, in south Wales. ICI Fibres' total Western European workforce will be cut to about 8,500 compared with more than 20,000 as recently as 1975.

Nowhere has the massive contraction in the synthetic fibres industry been felt more severely than in Northern Ireland. During the 1960s six large employers were attracted to the province, largely by generous financial incentives. ICI, Monsanto, Du Pont, Hoechst, British Enka (part of the Akzo group) and Courtaulds, which had earlier established a viscose fibre plant. Some have closed plants entirely, others merely shed jobs. Only last month it was learned that Akzo was considering the long-term future of its

Antrim plant, which makes nylon, polyester filament and tyre cord. Akzo and its competitors throughout Europe must face similarly painful decisions elsewhere.

The origins of the present difficulties lie in the rapid expansion of the synthetic fibres industry in the 1960s and early 1970s. In retrospect the industry can be seen to have grown too fast, and invested too heavily in the bulk commodity products in which it has subsequently proved so vulnerable from market attack by cheaper producers outside Europe. Attempts to coordinate cuts in capacity, supported by the industry arm of the European Commission, were largely unsuccessful.

The immediate crisis has been brought about by a crushing combination of factors, which no doubt brought forward the time when producers would have to face the consequences of strategic mistakes made some years ago. Each of these factors has probably been felt most severely in the United Kingdom, and may help to explain why ICI came to bail out of the bulk fibres business first.

Demand for the products made from synthetic fibres—knitted and woven garments, bedding, carpets and a variety of industrial goods—has declined as the general recession deepened. Over the past 12 months ICI, for example, has seen much of its immediate customer base in the textile and clothing industry disappear. Altogether, more than 100 mills closed last year.

High interest rates and the relative strength of sterling have also caused difficulties for British manufacturers. But these have been of minor importance when set against the damage done to the industry by cheap imports from the United States.

American producers were slow to exploit the substantial advantages they enjoyed from cheap energy feedstocks (the petrochemicals from which synthetic fibres are made) but mounted a highly successful export drive from 1978 onwards. Sales into the European Community, and particularly into Britain, whose market was geographically and linguistically attractive, soared. United States companies

seized about a third of the British polyester filament market, against only 7 per cent at the start of 1979.

European producers, led by the British, shouted "fool", and urged the Commission to curb exports which they claimed were supported by an unfair trading advantage. The Commission has been reluctant to jeopardize trade relations with the United States by taking firm action, but eventually agreed to impose quotas on some products coming into Britain, and impose anti-dumping duties on others entering the Community.

This action was condemned as inadequate by producers, who could justify extending the industry's difficulties were being aggravated by circumstances outside their control.

The Commission is still talking to the United States about energy pricing, but meanwhile the industry has been forced into extensive bloodletting. How much more will be needed is not yet clear. Even if the American threat retreats, there will still be severe over-capacity within Europe and the likelihood of a market challenge from Far East producers.

ICI is convinced that it still has a future in the man-made fibres business: not in the low-price, high-volume lines which it has not abandoned to others, but in those products carrying higher added value, bigger margins and incorporating technological skill.

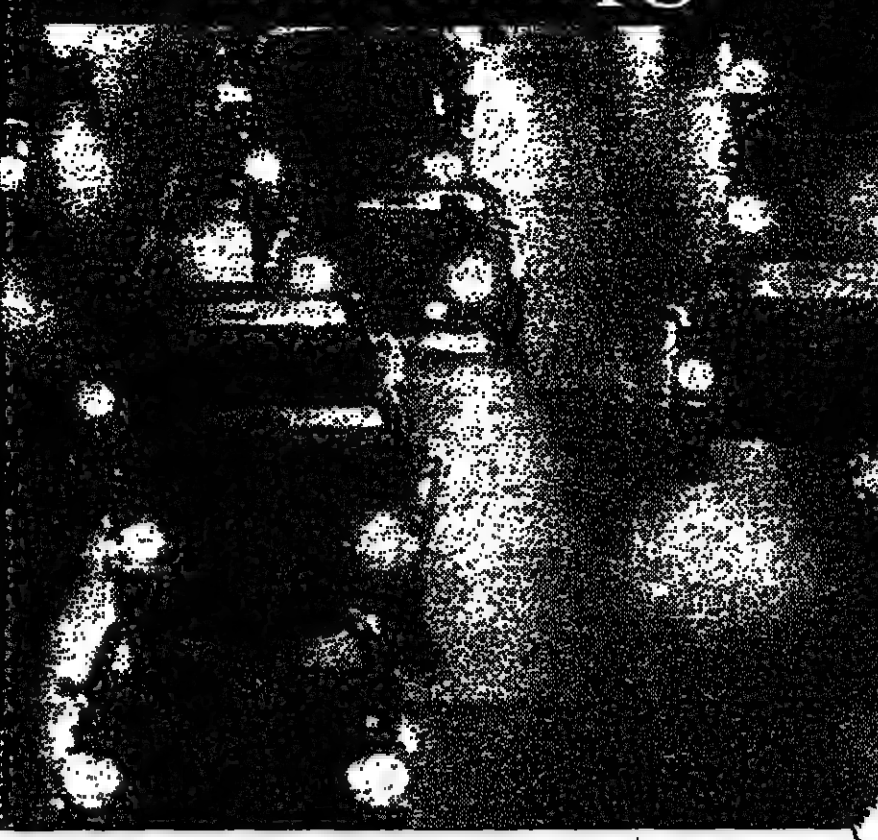
This move up-market has become conventional wisdom for the chemicals and textiles industries in Western Europe, and there are signs that fibre is a sector in which there is scope for technological advance.

Observers point, for example, to the enhanced sales potential for polyester-mix products should their water-absorbency problems be overcome.

ICI, which has a share in an expanding fibres business in the United States, believes it is now in the right shape to exploit the up-market opportunities. Despite poor sales, it has invested more than £100m in its fibres business over the past five years.

John Huxley

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Pharmaceuticals

# High risk of financial loss

The risk of financial loss involved in pharmaceutical research can be judged from the fact that fewer than one in 5,000 compounds found in the laboratory will ever reach the market. Moreover the time between the discovery of a new substance and its manufacture on a commercial scale is between six and 10 years.

Most of the political groups, consumer organisations or industrial companies seeking changes in the regulations controlling drugs and its manufacture on a commercial scale are the section of the Labour Party urging nationalisation, members of the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs pressing for uniform pricing of medicines throughout the European Community, or the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry lobby-

ing for an easing of safety measures.

The pharmaceutical industry has an outstanding record of exports and is a superb example of the results to be achieved by encouraging science-based industries and technological innovation. That view may appear to have been somewhat tarnished by the disastrous experience of Fisons, which has just abandoned a new anti-allergy drug, Proxicromil, on which £12m has been spent. It was to have been the successor to Intal, the company's profitable asthma treatment, on which the patents will begin to run out next year.

The aspect of the industry that tends to get most attention is the system by which prices for medicines are fixed. The latest furor is over the British National

Formulary, a guide to encourage doctors to prescribe more cheaply and effectively.

But profound changes are coming with the development of genetic engineering. Caltech, a new enterprise in Britain, backed by public and private capital, announced this month the commercial development of its first product, an anti-interferon compound. The substance combines specifically with interferon, and can therefore be used in the purification, and assay, of interferon itself, which is still the subject of an extensive study, concerning its therapeutic properties.

Insulin and interferon are front-runners among the range of potential pharmaceuticals, proteins and industrial and agricultural chemicals which may be manufactured by genetic

manipulation. Most of the big drug firms are forming research programmes and the chemical companies are following suit.

Shell Oil gave £1m to Caltech research on interferon last year and is collaborating with specialist groups in this subject. E.I. du Pont in the United States, and Bayer, in Europe, are only two of the multinational companies involved in a broad range of genetic studies of new products and manufacturing processes.

There is no technical reason why genetic engineering lends itself more immediately to development in the pharmaceutical industry; the manipulation lies in that sector's approach to the risk-business of harnessing science to commerce.

P.W.

Points

# Makers' world turns a grey matt

Prehistoric man took a giant step forward for the paint-making industry when he found he could decorate his cave with the images of the world by dipping his finger in a paste of animal fats and coloured earth. Throughout the ages coloured powder and a fluid carrier, whether oil or water, remained the essential ingredients of paint. Then came my grandfather, Henry Horsnell and thousands of his generation showed the 400 British paint manufacturers, producing £8.5m of products at the turn of the century, what a revolutionary job he could do with distemper in turning the kitchen (and his flat cap) into a bright snowy wilderness.

The decorative paint industry, whose only important advance since then was the introduction of emulsion in the late 1950s, needs another revolution. The paintmakers' world turned a sort of grey matt last year from the effects of the recession. The 1980 sales volume was down 8.1 per cent on 1979 while sales value increased only by 7.3 per cent, well below the inflation rate. The largest volume reductions occurred in the automotive and

general industrial markets, by 11 per cent and 16.9 per cent respectively. Home decoration sales fell by 5.7 per cent while exports were unable to maintain the growth shown early in the year and were down 1.3 per cent for 1980 as a whole.

The year's sales value of £850m for paints and allied products reflected the cut in industry and the reduction in private and public building. As demand fell, most manufacturers were forced to invest less in new technology.

Even so, the paintmakers—headed by ICI paints division, Berger and Crown—spent an estimated £20m on laboratory research and that figure does not include investment by the chemicals industry as a whole.

Mr Lionel Bilefield, secretary of the Paintmakers Association of Great Britain, says: "Most people think of paint as something which comes out of a tin and that the paint in the tin this year is much the same as the paint in the tin five or 50 years ago. But the research investment figures indicate the real truth. There is non-stop development, usually evolution rather than revolution."

"The fortunes of the paint industry tend to follow fairly closely the national economy, so when that is depressed so are paints, particularly on the industrial costings side."

"The decorative market sometimes shows a different pattern, as at the beginning of a recession when people are first laid off and decide to fill the time by doing up the living room. We hope the recession will end. The recovery in paints would get under way in double-quick time. But there's no sign yet of it happening."

In the past 20 years the booming do-it-yourself section of the market has witnessed improvements in paints for the home: non-drip paints, drying speed, opacity, colour stability, safety, and the introduction of brilliant white, the most popular colour. But the next big advance in the DIY sector, a full gloss emulsion, is still being worked on.

There have however been several important developments in recent times in the industrial and marine sectors. The industrial sector has announced electropaints, powder or slurry paints, self-polishing copolymer, and special thin coatings for the

aviation industry. Demand last year for powder coatings, which are sprayed electrostatically on to an item, rose by 34 per cent. No solvent is needed.

Self-polishing copolymer (SPC) is used in the marine industry for smoother hulls and extended repainting intervals. The passage of a vessel through water, which normally leaves various deposits on the hull and reduces performance, actually produces a polishing effect when SPC is used, and this means a smoother hull.

Advances may have been greater in the marine and industrial sectors but the do-it-yourself field has had its own less spectacular benefits in recent years. Not least of these is the cheapness of paint today. While a gallon of paint in 1938 cost £1.05, the same amount today costs a decorator £7.80 a sevenfold increase only, which scarcely compares with the soaring increase in wages in the past 42 years.

Reap, the fierce competition in the industry, especially in the DIY market, means that manufacturers have not passed on to the consumer the hugely rising costs in materials.

Michael Horsnell

# Driving force

What car were you driving in 1967? That was the year Bayer built the experimental K67—90% of its body weight was made up of chemical materials.

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## New products

## Era of profligate exploitation of discovery is over

The chemical industry's future product range is not difficult to predict in broad outline. The plants and processes which will make the bulk of chemical products in the year 2000 are already being planned, being built or producing. The same products will dominate the market, because demands for fertilizers, plastics and other basic industrial materials will not disappear.

In many cases, known products will continue either because no alternative is likely to be invented or because it is not worth anyone's while to invent an alternative. Half a dozen polymers account for most of the plastics market. Their properties are well known, they are made in huge quantities, and they are cheap. If an alternative to any of them were invented tomorrow, it would stand little chance of competing—the cost of entering the market would be

just too high for it to show a profit.

Does this mean that the great period of chemical innovation is over? Will there be no really new products? The answer to both questions is "yes and no".

For the past quarter century, the chemical industry has been profligate in its exploitation of discovery. With high growth rates and profitability there has been no real incentive to get the most out of new products and processes. In the past few years, the emphasis has changed. Much more time is spent now on going back over old ground and seeing how it can be developed better.

To the outside world this approach may not seem innovative but, at a time when the industry is squeezed, money spent on developmental research which may mean a few per cent saving of energy or

raw materials in the manufacture of a product with a known market is a safer bet than money spent on developing new and perhaps unwanted products.

Nevertheless, there is a growing realization in the industry that, if it is to survive in the long term, it must remain innovative. In many large companies, research budgets have escaped the cost cutting which has otherwise applied across the board.

As time passes, increasing quantities of bulk chemicals will be produced in those countries, such as Saudi Arabia, which have their own raw materials. The major producers now in the United States and Western Europe will have to live more on their wits and ingenuity. Consequently, many research teams are looking for new products which will be more valuable weight for weight than today's bulk chemicals. This quest for "higher

added value" means looking for materials which have very specific effects, for which customers are prepared to pay a price unrelated to the cost of production. This has been the basis of the pharmaceuticals sector for many years, but is now spreading throughout the industry.

For centuries, humanity has profited from naturally occurring chemical substances in plants and animals. The heart drug digitalis, discovered in foxgloves in the late eighteenth century, is a good example. Now there is renewed interest in natural products, with particular attention being paid to those which come from hitherto unexplored environments.

The University of Southern California, for example, has recently started a marine bio-active substances research programme. The aim is to find valuable new substances from marine organisms. Already some substances have been found

with antibiotic, anti-inflammatory or antiviral properties. More interesting, perhaps, are studies on neurotoxins, produced as part of the marine organisms' defence mechanisms, which could be valuable in the treatment of mental disorders.

Some marine defence substances might also be of use for their original purpose. Last month the American Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting in Toronto, was told about the isolation of a small protein from the Moses sole which makes this fish unattractive to sharks. It might pave the way to an effective shark repellent for human use.

American scientists have also been looking at the natural defence mechanisms of desert plants. Several new chemical structures with insecticidal properties have been found. In India, an evaluation of plants used in folk medicine in remote

areas has led to the identification of a variety of anti-fertility materials.

Often, the discovery of a natural product with a striking effect is only the starting point for the industrial chemist. Using modern synthetic techniques, a modified material can be produced which is as effective as the natural product but lacks undesirable side effects and—more important—can be manufactured economically.

According to the research director of one large chemical group, the chemical industry will stay much the same during the next two or three decades because it is now an appendage of the energy industry—taking its small share of the oil as its basic raw material. However, as the energy supply changes, it will change the chemical industry at the same time.

There is already a huge research effort related to the

conversion of coal into liquid and gaseous fuels. However, some alternative forms of energy supply will become practicable only through chemical innovation. The potential of solar energy has already led to intensive research on new materials to capture that form of energy effectively.

An important endeavour is to find rugged chemical systems which mimic the photosynthetic activity of plants. The natural photosynthetic system can be divided into two parts, and each has been imitated with fair success. The problem is to couple the two. Nevertheless, Sir George Porter, whose research group at the Royal Institution in London is one of the leaders, believes that photochemical systems for trapping solar energy could be mass-produced economically within a decade.

Promising research results are emerging, too, in energy

storage. A chemical heat pump system has been devised recently in the United States which can store solar energy and use it for both heating and air conditioning. And conventional batteries could be replaced by lightweight, rechargeable batteries made from specially treated polymers, thus reducing demands for limited metal resources.

The continued pressure on society to adapt to rising energy costs could also lead to different types of innovative demand on the chemical industry. As the cost of transport goes up, there may be a tendency for people to move around less and to keep in contact with the outside world more through electronic technology.

The potential for new chemical substances in microelectronics applications is enormous. Whether it is realized, however, depends on the extent to

which such technology generates consumer demand.

What of "real" chemistry? Are there new molecules to come, with unexpected properties? Several years ago, a chance observation made while supervising an undergraduate research project led Dr C. A. McAuliffe of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology to develop some new compounds which easily and reversibly absorb oxygen. Although some scientists have cast doubts on Dr McAuliffe's results, BOC—one of the United Kingdom's most important producers of oxygen, a chemical used on a vast scale—is following them up in the hope of developing a new and much less energy-intensive oxygen production process.

Martin Sherwood  
editor,  
Chemistry and Industry

## Biotechnology

## 'Genetic engineering' creates a new industrial revolution

Biotechnology, or the industrial use of the living organisms, is the basis for a major development which will affect a number of industries by the end of the century. A glimpse of the potential benefits from this latest technology to be spawned from science is seen in the early work on synthesizing interferon, the anti-viral compound with possible anti-cancer properties, and insulin on an industrial scale.

But the possibilities go far wider in offering innovation in the production of energy and basic industrial materials, in food supply and in a variety of other aspects of health care. Products like interferon and insulin have attracted commercial attention because they are products with high added values.

Against this background,

it is not surprising that several hundred eminent scientists from a wide range of disciplines will converge on Eastbourne in April to examine the latest scientific discoveries on which some of these new industrial enterprises will undoubtedly be built. But a wealth of knowledge exists in subjects like fermentation microbiology, in which the brewers, firms such as Tate & Lyle, and the pharmaceutical industry have enormous expert knowledge.

The new biotechnology depends on discoveries in enzyme technology and genetic manipulation of organisms; and between them they are transforming conditions.

If that sounds dramatic, consider one item—insulin. Since it was discovered in the 1920s, the market has been dominated by a single

firm, the Eli Lilly company of Indianapolis. No competitor has challenged its position for six decades, or its control over a market worth about £75m a year.

But that position is about to be challenged with advances in genetically engineered insulin, insulin pumps and, more long term, the transplantation of pancreatic cells. The coming changes promise fewer side effects and easier treatment. But the techniques being opened by genetic engineering procedures also open the way to a range of solutions to this sort of problem.

The "gene goldrush", as some American stockbrokers describe the haste by punters to take up the equity offered in the new biotechnology companies, is therefore perhaps a matter of over-enthusiasm. But it is fascinating to ask the

question: how are the spectacular techniques of genetic engineering in the laboratory going to be converted into industrial practice, or institutionalized?

The most likely short-term beneficiaries of biotechnology, the pharmaceutical firms, are greatly exercised over the problems of patentability; for this is where they protect their profits. And the methods of exploiting living organisms raise issues which are central to commercial law, and the first cases have been brought before the American courts to test the waters.

The universities continue to be the source of most of the fundamental research into recombinant DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), methods, or those techniques which make it possible to insert genetic

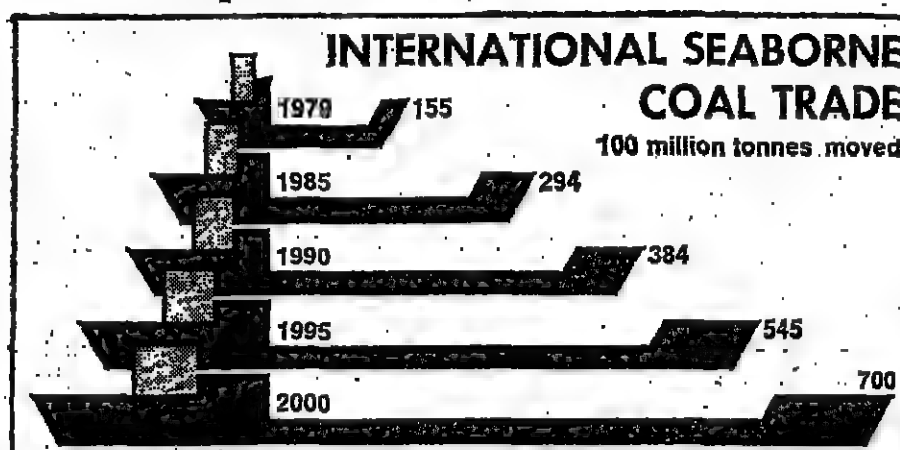
information into a microorganism or into the early embryo of a plant or animal so that a missing component or a desired characteristic can be added. In the United Kingdom the prestige unit is that at Cambridge, financed by the Medical Research Council, which forms the backbone to the venture in biotechnology backed by the National Enterprise Board.

But the entrepreneurial business began with enterprises like the Cetus Corporation in Berkeley, California, supported by two oil companies, Standard Oil of California and the American Oil Company, and the National Disinfectants & Chemical Corporation. Initial efforts were on enzyme systems for the conversion of ethylene to ethylene glycol.

Pearce Wright

## Coal

## Money being poured into liquid fuel



Products obtained from refining, such as alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, petrol, distillates and diesel oils can then be synthesized from the simple molecules, which in

effect recreates the oil barrel. Techniques for liquefaction and gasification of coal are well established for accomplishing either of these schemes.

The money being poured into research and development in Europe and North America, estimated at more than £1,000m, is to perfect particular technologies which will be commercially comparable with those devised for refining oil.

There seems to be little doubt among the international oil companies about the technical side of the development; the main questions centre on how rapidly the industrial conversion should be pushed over the next 20 to 25 years and how much it is going to cost.

An overall plan based on coal that perpetuates the life of the multinational energy corporations has been conceived. There are outlines for the coal-head and coal refinery to replace the well-head and oil refinery; and as the accompanying chart from a study by Shell on international seaborne coal trade indicates, the basic installations of the coal-based industry are indeed a close copy of the oil-based one.

Coal conversion processes were first developed and

## Gas

## Business in the air

Air is big business for the chemical industry. Both oxygen and nitrogen, which make up most of the atmosphere, rank in the top 10 industrial chemicals in tonnage. Although the industrial gases business has been affected by the recession, new processes and uses seem to offer this sector a brighter future than many others.

Industrial gases began to assume their present importance early this century, when processes were developed for liquefying air and separating it into its component parts: oxygen, nitrogen and argon. Interest in large-scale use of oxygen developed during the 1920s and 1930s in Germany, in connection with processes for converting coal to oil.

Production of byproducts could again become an important outlet for oxygen and it is no coincidence that at least one large producer is involved in a joint coal conversion demonstration project with the United States government.

The availability of oxygen in large quantities, as a result of the German work, led to the development of oxygen-based steelmaking after the Second World War.

The advantage of using oxygen rather than air, is that it speeds chemical processes, so that higher output can be achieved in plant of a particular size. A recent development is the use of oxygen in sewage treatment for this reason.

Because the purity of the oxygen is not critical, a newer type of production method, called pressure swing adsorption, can be used. This separates oxygen from the other components of air by differential absorption on beds of special material. It is less energy-intensive than liquefaction, but produces oxygen of only about 90 per cent purity.

Liquid nitrogen is a valuable source of cold. One of its important uses is in freezing food and keeping it frozen, particularly during transportation. Trucks with liquid-nitrogen based refrigeration systems are now a common sight on British roads.

Nitrogen is also used to provide an inert blanket of gas for processes that can be carried out satisfactorily in the presence of oxygen. Storage tanks containing flammable chemicals at the rebuilt Nypro plant at Flixborough have nitrogen blankets, to prevent oxidative deterioration of the material.

As industrial processes increase in complexity, the need for inert blankets also increases. Although nitrogen does not react easily, it is

too reactive for some processes. Argon, which is even more inert, is used for example to blanket the liquid sodium pool in which fuel elements are immersed in the fast breeder reactor at Dounreay, Scotland.

If nuclear power plants were the only outlet for argon, its future might seem doubtful; but other uses are growing. For example, in some applications, argon-oxygen mixtures for welding give better performance than oxygen mixed with other gases. And one staple use ensures a continuing demand for this gas: to fill light bulbs, where its inertness helps to prolong filament life.

Two other gases used industrially in tonnage quantities are hydrogen and carbon dioxide. The former is produced mainly by reforming of natural gas, while the latter is a by-product of a variety of chemical processes and also of alcoholic fermentation.

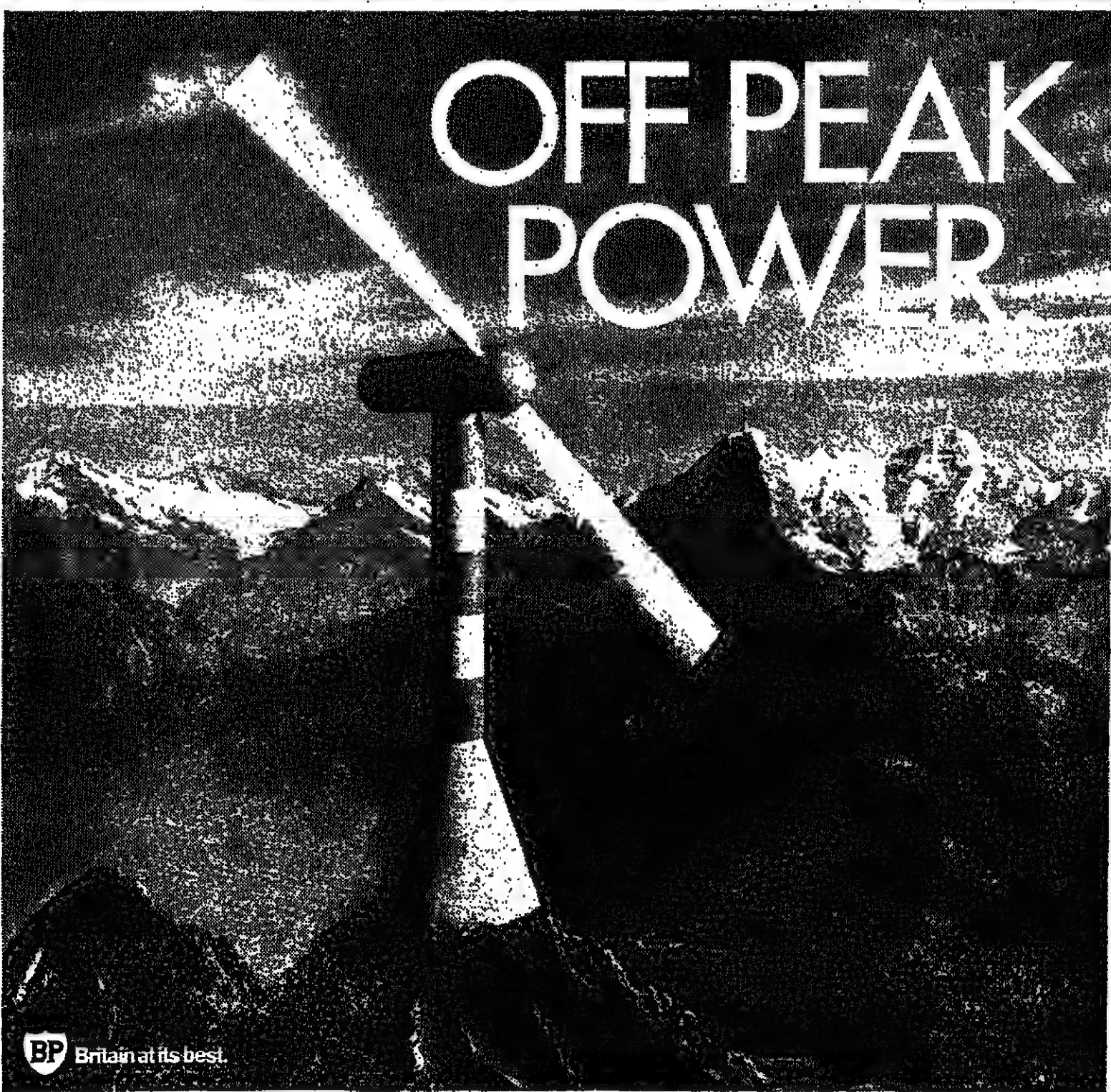
In addition to its well-known use in putting the fizz in soft drinks, carbon dioxide—like nitrogen—is widely used in food refrigeration. The two gases also compete in the oil industry, where they are used to maintain pressure in oil reservoirs.

Nitrogen is the cheaper of the two, but if the United States develops a large-scale gasohol programme, the associated increase in carbon dioxide production could alter the relative prices and hence of use in North America. Europe might be similarly affected by programmes such as that recently announced by the French for producing power alcohol from plant materials.

Hydrogen use depends like that of oxygen, on its chemical reactions. Its market in chemical and metallurgical processing has grown steadily in the past decade and it might conceivably soar to new heights. This possibility, like prospects for oxygen and carbon dioxide, is linked to future energy supplies. Hydrogen burns in air to release energy and produce a non-pollutant combustion product, water. It has been suggested that it could become an important energy transfer and storage medium when oil runs out.

The "hydrogen economy" if it ever comes, will not come quickly. Even without it, those companies which are involved in producing and marketing industrial gases probably already have sufficiently diverse outlets for their products to assure them of reasonable prosperity even in today's adverse climate.

M.S.



Society needs to seek more sources of power. They probably won't be easy to find. In fact, some may well be so remote that the problem will not be so much in generating power, but in carrying it to where it's needed.

Modern wind generated turbines will need siting not for our convenience, but for maximum efficiency.

This could be the unlikely connection between wind power and a petrochemicals company. The key is the cable. Its life and efficiency depend on its protective covering. This will most likely be low density polyethylene. It's one of the more recent

additions to BP Chemicals' expanding product range.

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applications in the future. The protection they will need underground will probably depend on our continuing development work in low density polyethylene.

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مكتبة الأصل





## NEW TASKS FOR THE ALLIANCE

Analysing the woes of the western alliance has become a growth industry. Reports descend from all sides listing the daunting dangers which now face us. Some even have useful ideas on what we should do. It is, however, an event of some significance when the heads of the principal foreign affairs institutes of Britain, France, West Germany and the United States get together for the first time to produce a joint report. They are plugged into the best sources, so the thinking represents something more than their own private meditations. And the fact that they felt it necessary to get together is in itself an indication of the seriousness with which the problems are now taken by those most concerned with them. Perhaps there is also a hopeful aspect. If experts can struggle through disagreements to common ground, then why not politicians too?

Not that their report is particularly rich in answers, but it gives conventional wisdom some thought to chew on. It sees three linked threats: the rise of Soviet military power combined with the deterioration of East-West relations; the vulnerability of the industrial West to interruptions in the supply of oil and raw materials from increasingly unstable parts of the world; and the world economic crisis which exacerbates tensions and weakens the ability of the West to cope with new challenges. On top of all this there are the increasingly severe divisions within the western alliance on how to meet these threats.

The report will probably be celebrated by the political right as showing that the wind is blowing in their favour. It urges a more vigorous defence effort by the West, joint preparations for the possible use of force in the Gulf area, and aid to African liberation movements. However, it is unequivocal in supporting a continuation of arms control talks with the Soviet Union, both in strategic weapons and theatre

nuclear weapons in Europe. And although it says that a substantial improvement in the United States capacity to act worldwide is necessary, it adds that it would be unfortunate if this ruled out "a serious dialogue between the two superpowers". It might have added that a properly conducted policy of détente has never been tested by the West largely because the instability of American politics made a consistent application of sticks and carrots impossible. This does not mean it can be revived but it should discourage dogmatic assertions that any hope of introducing some degree of restraint and regulation into East-West rivalry is necessarily doomed.

For the moment, however, the rise in East-West tensions must be faced, and the danger of its exacerbating instability in the Third World must be guarded against. The industrial West is now extremely vulnerable, and if parts of the world on which it depends for raw materials begin to unravel too quickly it could face disasters of incalculable proportions. This is the central challenge facing the alliance.

The four wise men of our foreign affairs institutes are right to put the issue in strong terms. They are right that Europe must now take very seriously the threat to its security from outside the Nato area, that it must share with the United States the burden of meeting this threat, that the United States must reciprocate with genuine consultations, and that Japan being both a world power and very dependent on oil imports, must be involved. A new alliance relationship must be built, as the report rightly says.

But what then? The most controversial part of the report is that which discusses the possible use of force in the Gulf area. Here too the authors are right in principle. Diplomacy not backed by some capacity to use force is seldom effective. There are how-

ever, two main problems. One is that the presence of western forces could actually provoke instability which suggests that they should, as far as possible, be just over the horizon. The other problem is to distinguish the situations in which they might be usefully sent into action from those in which they might do more harm than good.

Threats could come from so many different directions: direct Soviet aggression; guerrilla movements with or without Soviet help; popular revolutions with or without Soviet help; coups d'état from inside political establishments; or simply a change in policy by major oil states deciding to keep more of their oil in the ground.

Western force could certainly be useful in discouraging direct or indirect intervention by the Soviet Union. Although geography makes the military position of the Soviet Union stronger than that of the West in the Gulf region, the proximity of western forces could raise the risks for the Soviet Union. Western force might also be used to quell minor rebellions at the request of a government.

There is, however, little that western armies could do to stop a genuine popular revolution or a change of policy by a legitimate government. Nor could western armies secure and run the oil fields in a hostile environment, in spite of what some people in Washington appear to think. The possible uses of force are therefore limited, and the western position could become even weaker if too much reliance is placed on them, or if they are used against the pressures for political and social change which are on the move in the Gulf area. In the long run western security must rest in cooperation with stable and representative governments, combined with as much reassurance as possible through diversification of sources and lower consumption.

## CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY AT WORK

As Spain returns to normal, and he plotters of Monday's abortive coup are arrested, it is easy to see the attempted seizure of power as theatre, an opera of the three-cornered hat. Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero Molina, in his traditional *ricorrido* pointing his pistol in the Cortes chamber, presented a comic rather than menacing figure—at any rate at the safe distance of a television screen. Some of the two hundred Civil Guardsmen who followed his lead into the Parliament building was an exercise, others that they were to disarm and overpower a leader of the Basque terrorist organization ETA. As he imprisoned deputies became more confident, and the insurgents more demoralized, support for Colonel Tejero trickled away.

At the same time there are some signs that Colonel Tejero's oush was not perhaps as isolated as it seemed, and that it could have enjoyed wider support had it been better organized. The military commander of the Valencia district, Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, declared a state of emergency just as Colonel Tejero and his men were bursting into the Cortes, and other senior officers may also be implicated. In any case, the mere fact that in assault of this kind can be made on Spain's still nascent democracy is alarming. It is almost incredible that Colonel Tejero, who had been convicted in November, 1978, of plotting to overthrow democracy in Spain, should have subsequently been

given responsibility for security in Parliament.

As for General Milans, he, like many other senior military officers, was a product of the Franco era, and indeed fought in the infamous Blue Division alongside Nazi German forces. It is less than five years since Franco's death and Spain's return to democratic forms of government, and it would be surprising if some hankering after the ways of dictatorship had not lingered on. But the Government's response to manifestations of diabolical Francoist sentiment in military and police circles has been cautious, and its handling of rebellion has been lax.

It may be that the purges now under way in the armed forces and police as a result of Monday's coup attempt will correct this. Both General Milans and Colonel Tejero are under arrest. So too is the deputy joint chief of staff, Major General Alfonso Armada Comyn. General Armada was involved in negotiations with the insurgents inside the Cortes during the uprising, and was said to be close to King Juan Carlos. But there are now suggestions that he might have had sympathies with the aims of the rebels. Other senior officers in detention include Colonel Ricardo Garchitorena Zabala, who tried to arrest the military governor of Madrid during the attempted coup.

If residual military leanings toward dictatorship are effectively neutralized, Monday's events may yet turn out to be the last gasp of Francoism rather than a symptom of the failure of democracy to take root. In a sense the

calm reaction of the Spanish people, and the reluctance of the majority of Spain's troops and police to move in support of the rebels, have already demonstrated that democracy is not a frail flower. Much of the credit for this must go to the King, Juan Carlos, who by acting in a resolute and level-headed fashion gave a forthright lead at a critical moment. He had already won respect in the country at large. He showed courage and resolve during his recent visit to the Basque region, and has been widely praised—even on the left—for his commitment to pluralism and the defence of liberty. His influence in the armed forces, his swift convening of a parallel Government during the siege of the Cortes, and his firm address to the nation on television have all enhanced this impression, and are impressive testimony of the assurance of Spain's constitutional monarchy.

There are those in Western Europe, watching the events in Madrid from afar, who will conclude that Spain is not yet fit to enter the European Community. Spain first applied for membership in 1962, and has been hoping to join by 1984. Much will depend on how under the guidance of King Juan Carlos, Spain is now able to tackle its numerous problems—including economic difficulties, and continuing unrest among the Basques—within a democratic framework. But the EEC should take heart from Spain's swift recovery, and should bear in mind that democracy is much more likely to flourish if Spain is inside than if it is outside the European Community.

## Arts sponsorship

From Mr Stephen Reiss  
Sir, A year or two ago, an angry correspondence waged between industry and the Arts Council ended in an armed truce called by Lord Goodman.

As everyone connected with the arts has been only too aware, there has since been no drawing together of the two points of view, although—to its credit—industry has so far refused to be discouraged and the movement towards greater commercial sponsorship of the arts continues to gain momentum.

However, in a recently published statement (Arts Council Information Bulletin, January, 1981), the Secretary General of the Arts Council again throws down the gauntlet. The nub of his argument, the only sentence he has printed in italics, is as follows: "The Arts Council is spending taxpayers' money, and has as much a duty to ensure that taxpayers know what is being done with their money, as business sponsors need to show their shareholders that due publicity results from sponsorship."

A more misleading statement would be hard to imagine. It totally ignores the factor of delegation. As taxpayers we are only too anxious that the Arts Council should get on with its proper job of supporting the arts without bothering to tell us on every possible occasion what a tremendous job it is doing. It will be judged by results and not by the size of the credit it demands of its clients. Similarly, as shareholders, we have no wish to become involved in the precise way in which the company spends its money; it is only the end product which concerns us.

The council appears currently to be suffering from a large chip which distorts its sense of priority.

Business will support the arts if it gets value for money. But if it is warned too often not to be "too hungry for acknowledgement at the expense of the Arts Council", it will soon grow weary of the exercise. These are the simple facts which the council still has the choice to accept or reject.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN REISS,  
Managing Director,  
Business Arts Council,  
Royal Academy of Arts,  
Burlington House,  
Piccadilly, W1.  
February 23.

## Housing revival

From Mr Frank Allam, MP for Salford East (Labour)  
Sir, Following the climb down by Mrs Thatcher and her Government over pit closures, may I suggest that the time has come for them to reverse their cuts in an even bigger industry—construction.

Last year's housing starts were the lowest since 1914 with only one exception. This year the number started will be even lower. Opposition to this has come from almost every quarter: the National Federation of Building Employers, the Unions, Shelter, the Association of Builders, the National Association of Homeless, the National Association of Tenants' Organisations, the Royal Institute of British Architects and, of course, the Labour Party.

The Cabinet is nearly alone in persisting in its cut-backs. It will have to back down. A visitor from Mars would be astounded at seeing 1,200,000 families on the housing waiting lists on the one hand and, at the same time, 300,000 unemployed building operatives on the other. Surely the

commonsense course is to kill two birds with one stone—homelessness and unemployment—by setting the builders to work.

That is what West Germany and Italy did as soon as the signs of the slump appeared. It would also follow the example of President Roosevelt's New Deal. With 13 million unemployed in the States in the thirties gave the go-ahead for vast housing estates and imaginative projects, such as the Tennessee Valley Authority. That is what Britain should be doing today.

To take 100,000 building workers off the dole would save £600 million a year in benefit and loss of income tax. In addition, of course, they would be adding an equal or even greater sum to the country's production.

Yours sincerely,  
FRANK ALLAM,  
House of Commons.

## Man or beast

From Mr Lewis Massey  
Sir, A propos of Bernard Levin's column on unusual surnames (February 19), it may interest him (and, more appositely, Mr Philip Howard) to know that the Victorians referred to bed-bugs as Norfolk Howards. The origin of this goes back to the illustrious columns of your own paper. My *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* (second edition, reprinted 1933) has the following entry: "Norfolk Howard, 1865. (In *The Times* of 26 June, 1862, one Joshua Bug declared in due form that he had assumed the name of Norfolk Howard.) A bed-bug slang." Yours faithfully,  
LEWIS MASSEY,  
20 Orchard Rise,  
Cambridge.  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

## Why Russia should leave Afghanistan

From Mr Muhammad Aziz Naim

Sir, As an Afghan who had conversations with the pre-April 1978 Karmal regime, I am permitted to comment on the remarks made by the latter at a press conference in Moscow after his arrival there for the communist party congress, as reported (February 21) in *The Times*.

Mr Karmal's insistence on the "absolute legitimacy" of his regime, established in his view "according to the people's will" and "in accordance with democratic procedures" is ridiculous. The naked truth is that never in the course of modern Afghan history at least has any puppet installed by a foreign power been accepted by the "will" of the Afghan people. On the contrary, the pressure of such a regime, established in his view "according to the people's will" and "in accordance with democratic procedures" is ridiculous. The naked truth is that never in the course of modern Afghan history at least has any puppet installed by a foreign power been accepted by the "will" of the Afghan people.

The "will" of the Afghan people has already manifested its rejection of the present Karmal regime and that of his two communist predecessors, Taraki and Amin. It is this manifestation which forced the Soviets to "usher in the second phase of the glorious April revolution," as Karmal put it in another speech by intervening directly and installing him and his associates.

Karmal also claims that the Soviet invasion is "fraternal assistance" against an "undecided war" started by the "Peking-Islamabad-Washington triangle". In fact, this so-called "undecided war" represents a regime installed by a superpower whose imperialistic record is similar to or

even worse than that of its western rivals. Karmal's remarks are reminiscent of the nineteenth century imperialists who used alleged Russian influence in 1839 and 1879 in Kabul as a pretext for their Afghan invasions.

Karmal insults the Afghan people when he says that "the 1917 October Revolution in Russia opened the way to freedom". In fact, the Afghan War of Independence in 1919 was the conclusion of a long struggle against foreign domination and was inspired not by the October Revolution but by Afghan nationalism and the teachings of Islam. The 1921 Treaty of Friendship with the Soviet Union to which Karmal refers was only the first of a series of treaties with friendly countries.

Afghanistan has always had friendly relations with the USSR, but until 1978 this friendship was based on good neighbourliness and mutual respect for territorial integrity. As an underdeveloped country Afghanistan has no other desire or design than peace, security and stability, the prerequisites for social and economic development. Our ultimate aim must be good relations with the USSR, but the present state of affairs makes this impossible and is creating deep-rooted hostility towards it among the Afghan people.

It is to be hoped that the Russians will realise this before it is too late and leave Afghanistan to the Afghans, and thus seek the good will of the Afghan masses, if any of them remain. Yours faithfully,  
M. A. NAIM,  
Flat 2,  
103 Grosvenor Gardens, NW6.  
February 24.

## Heritage in danger

From Dr Bernard M. Feilden

Sir, The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) for short) was sudden (letter, February 17). No warning was given of the Government's intentions, no reason being provided at the time. The decision was announced on December 22. Since then I have met the Minister for Overseas Development who assured me that there were no complaints about the work of ICCROM, but explained that it was the Government's policy to cut back on multilateral aid. As Britain receives \$170,000 from participating in the activities of ICCROM in return for \$65,000 subscribed it is hard to see why ICCROM's work is classified as aid. One might say aid to whom? Unfortunately the immediate sufferers from the withdrawal are the many interesting places at ICCROM, who probably lose grants of the order of \$30,000.

The work of ICCROM in conserving our heritage, be it in museums or in historic buildings and towns, is multidisciplinary, bringing together archaeologists, architects, historians, engineers, museologists, curators, conservators and scientists. Distinguished members of each of these disciplines have written

to support ICCROM and protest in astonishment, amazement and disgust at the Government's clumsy action. Unfortunately, because it is broadly based on humanistic, scientific and artistic skills, conservation has no one sponsor in governmental circles, so when financial cuts were made no one wanted to speak for ICCROM. Unfortunately for Britain the situation will have long term repercussions far beyond those envisaged.

ICCROM has been an agent for spreading British culture skills and technology in a field where quality counts. British teachers have helped and British experts have been recommended for many interesting and difficult jobs. As Director, I have been proud to be a Briton and an ambassador for our country to the four corners of the world. This act of the Ministry of Overseas Development will reduce our prestige and influence; however, if Britain's attainments so far have fallen below expectations because of the need to trim in the face of the world recession.

Some measure of pragmatism to soften the blow may well in the short term be justifiable. But that the long-term strategy is wrong, indeed, a return to those very central butskelike policies of the fifties and sixties which have brought us to the very pass in which we now find ourselves is surely something *The Times* would never have countenanced 18 months ago. Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL SAUL,  
Department of History,  
Royal Holloway College,  
Egham Hill,  
Egham,  
Surrey.  
February 16.

## Right to know

From Mr Ian Harvey

Sir, During the Suez crisis the officers and committee of the 1922 Committee, of which I was then joint-secretary, exercised their right to request Sir Anthony Eden to meet them and explain the position. Admittedly it was not a very stimulating occasion.

In view of the obvious disquiet of many conservative backbenchers, and their supporters in the country, it would seem that this is an appropriate moment for the present incumbents to do the same with Mrs Thatcher. It is to be hoped that the results will be more encouraging. Yours faithfully,  
IAN HARVEY, Chairman,  
Paddington Conservative Association,  
92 Bishop's Bridge Road, W2.  
February 23.

## Pragmatic policies

From Dr N. E. Saul

Sir, Your argument (leader, February 16) that the British do not like radical, doctrinaire governments may or may not be true. What is certain is that it is not necessarily an argument for a return to the

pragmatic policies ("fine-tuning" it used to be called) which we have been familiar in the past.

This Government was elected on a policy which *The Times* supported of reducing the share of public expenditure in total GNP, because the burden of supporting state administration and enterprise was threatening to engulf the profit-making sector of the economy. Mrs Thatcher's attainments so far have fallen below expectations because of the need to trim in the face of the world recession.

Some measure of pragmatism to soften the blow may well in the short term be justifiable. But that the long-term strategy is wrong, indeed, a return to those very central butskelike policies of the fifties and sixties which have brought us to the very pass in which we now find ourselves is surely something *The Times* would never have countenanced 18 months ago. Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL SAUL,  
Department of History,  
Royal Holloway College,  
Egham Hill,  
Egham,  
Surrey.  
February 16.

## Rates and taxes

From Mr Peter M. Reed

Sir, We must be grateful to Mr Heddle (February 23) for bringing the "great rate debate" to the attention of your columns, and it is to be hoped that this difficult subject will receive some careful consideration upon which politicians are able to make reasonable decisions.

Before the debate goes too far, however, we urgently need some guidance from Mr Heddle's final paragraph does not seem to help here.

Local government finance is raised (as to approximately 60 per cent) by central government grant, which puts another way means by national taxation: it is therefore quite wrong to suggest that the "retired pensioner" is contributing anything like the same proportion to local government expenditure as the "working family neighbour".

Mr Heddle further seems to suggest that liability to taxes and rates should be related to services received: this would be a remarkable and novel amendment to the existing system in this country (should the sick, the old, and the student pay the most?).

In the event of a drastic amendment to the structure of the finance of local government, a better start might be made by financing major items such as education, police and the fire services directly from central government, leaving local government to raise money locally to pay for local matters. This would be more truthful and would make local and national governments directly accountable to their respective electors. Yours faithfully,  
PETER M. REED,  
1 Snow Hill, ECL.  
February 23.

## The Liberal vote

From Mr Bryan Jenner

Sir, Geoffrey Smith (February 13) asserts that "there is no prospect of the Liberals breaking through to power on their own". In so claiming he overlooks the fact that in the 1984 general election the Liberal Party has fielded more than 500 candidates, and in October 1974 put forward 619. Could a social democrat group, with no organisation on the ground, achieve that by 1982?

Secondly, he overlooks a question in your ORAC survey of February 9, which showed that, given the traditional party line-up 21 per cent would vote Liberal—more than at any time since the 1950s. This is a time of a Parliament since the war and already within sight of the Tories.

Most importantly, he overlooks the result of a question asked in your ORC poll of January 17, 1980, (not, alas, repeated in your more recent poll) when 42 per cent of the sample said they would vote Liberal if they thought that the Liberal Party had a reasonable chance of winning the next election. This included, incidentally, 36 per cent of Labour voters.

I would point out that if such a percentage did vote Liberal—and they are likely to on the basis of recent electoral history, at least to have the opportunity—not only would the Liberals emerge as the largest parliamentary group, they would also—given the present electoral system—have a huge overall majority. Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN JENNER,  
4 Parsonsage East,  
Monkton,  
Ramsgate,  
Kent.  
February 14.

## Anomalies in the Nationality Bill

From the General Secretary of the Catholic Commission for Racial Justice

Sir, If Ronald Butt (article, February 19) wishes to carry on a public debate with Church leaders over the position they have taken towards the new Nationality Bill, he might at least take pains to understand what those churchmen are saying. Mr Butt argues that, in redefining nationality, "for social stability we need to draw a line across the page of recent immigration". Leaving aside for the moment the continuing right of 200 million EEC nationals to come to this country, Mr Butt surely does not wish to "draw a line across the page of recent immigration" irrespective of any and all past obligations.

Far from taking a purely "theological" position or advocating an "open door" policy towards immigration, the Roman Catholic Bishops have tried to indicate which of our past obligations cannot be jettisoned. In a carefully worded statement, they say that: "all individuals who are at present citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies and of no other nation must be admitted to citizenship with clearly defined rights and duties, including the right to enter, reside and work in the United Kingdom or a named colony". This principle confines itself to those British nationals who have no other citizenship. It does not say that such people must be admitted to Britain, but that they must be given either British nationality or that of a particular colony. The bishops therefore are not opposed to citizenship of the dependent territories; but they insist that such a citizenship must carry with it the right of entry to a named territory (eg Hong Kong).

The bishops are more fundamentally opposed to British overseas citizenship. Such "citizens" will have no right of entry anywhere and in some cases will have no other nationality. British overseas citizenship is a very questionable concept, based as it is on the Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1968. The 1968 Act was rushed through Parliament in eight days in the aftermath of a racial scare, and was later condemned by the European Commission for Human Rights for discriminating against East African Asians "on grounds of colour or race". The 1968 Act represented a refusal to acknowledge obligations to certain groups of people; and that refusal is perpetuated in the present Nationality Bill.

The bishops are also to whom we have an obligation that goes unrecognised in the present Bill, are perhaps forty thousand East African Asians and twice as many people of Chinese descent living in Malaysia. They would become British overseas citizens, although they hold United Kingdom and Colonies passports and have no other nationality. If they cannot be given or do not want the citizenship of the places where they are living, they should receive British citizenship. Compared with

200 million EEC nationals their numbers are quite small and they are no more likely than Europeans to come here in large numbers. In any case they represent a limited number of people to whom, in the eyes of the bishops, we have a clear obligation.

Surely, the bishops are not to be faulted for this attempt to define obligations which cannot be abandoned. Their position, far from being purist, outlines our minimal responsibilities. Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD ZIFFEL,  
General Secretary,  
Catholic Commission for Racial Justice,  
Church Hall,  
11 Amwell Street ECL.  
February 19

## From Lord Lytton

Sir, In the "Butting" of Bishops (feature, February 19) I find it difficult not to "Butt" with Mr Butt and the Government.

It is less than a generation since 1,000 million people had the right to settle in the UK. That all should try to exercise that right was always impossible to allow. When only a handful tried there was a benevolent *laissez passer*.

With the dissolution of our Empire many of our former subjects overseas tried to continue in enjoyment of our rule in the only way possible, by coming to settle in the UK. Tens of millions of people have been on the move since 1947, most of them displaced by black imperialism, the rule of terror, muddle and starvation.

I do not turn away my face. Through the BBC monitoring service I am in daily touch with the bleak outlines of most of it. I am stirred to the depths—often to tears. We have in the UK a man who served the imperial frontiers endured heat, hardship, isolation and malaria? They are black. They are beautiful. I have served them. I have loved them. I now put my hand in my pocket hoping to bring a cup of clean water to the thirsty. But I do not think we can solve their life and death problem by bringing them all to the UK. If we keep them out on the score of numbers of course there are "racial implications", because they are all black—but this is the thing to say in this context for there are overwhelming reasons based on numbers even if we preferred them all black.

As for the margins, my father was born in Calcutta. *Jus soli* would have made him an Indian with a frantic race to substitute *jus sanguinis* for *jus soli*. Had he failed to have him as a British subject, born in the UK would have been staunch upholders of *jus soli*, whilst the fourth born in Paris might have preferred I know not what—the Code Napoléon perhaps!

Yours faithfully,  
LYTTON,  
House of Lords,  
February 18.

## Alcohol fire hazard

From Mrs Susanna Hall

Sir, Jack Pizze presented an excellent programme last week concerning alcohol and fire hazards. 20 years the survival rates do not appear to have improved, and a proportion of passengers appear to die in disasters quite needlessly.

Among the many hazards mentioned—leaks filled with foam that burns and gives off toxic fumes, blocked escape exits, incorrect diagrams on life saving instruction cards—are the added fire risks of carrying duty free alcohol, something which has been causing great concern to pilots. We were told who are urging a ban on all sales.

In Singapore one buys duty free goods on arrival. If all airports adopted this policy, and planes only carried sufficient alcohol for in-flight consumption, the loss of revenue would be incurred to the airports, and at least one of the fire hazards could be easily reduced. Yours sincerely,  
SUSANNA HALL,  
Old Parks Cottage,  
Woodlands,  
Stoke D'Abernon,  
Cobham,  
Surrey.  
February 22.

## Gaelic in danger

From Mr Angus Nicol

Sir, Donald Stewart's Gaelic (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill was a moderate and reasonable measure, designed to give a little official recognition and support to a language and its culture which are of great age and value. It would involve some expenditure of public funds.

On February 13 the second reading was talked out and the matter adjourned to the 27th after some five and a half hours of so-called debate, consisting of long and irrelevant speeches by those opposing the Bill, making clever little debating points based on out-of-date and suspect figures. The report in *Hansard* leaves one amazed that this can really be the purpose of Parliament.

For the Government it was said that the Bill and its proposed expenditure were unnecessary, and the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland proudly at funds totalling £178,000 or so which he implied were for the support of Gaelic. Of that, £102,000 is the grant to the Scottish Arts Council and other organisations, of which by no means all support Gaelic.

At a time when large sums of public money are being spent to preserve immigrants' ways of life, when the Government is spending more than ten times the above amount in support of Welsh, when necessary cuts in local expenditure are likely to lead to the extinction of Fir Chilis and Cinema Sgire (the Gaelic drama and film groups, both deserving of support), and after the Conservative Party pledged increased support for Gaelic, it is very hollow.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ANGUS NICOL,  
5 Paper Buildings,  
Temple, EC4.  
February 20.

## In his own country

From Mrs Pamela Gilson

Sir, Bernard Levin, in his column (February 24), discusses a letter from a young honours graduate who rashly said that he would be willing to have his name as *Prius* Master, or even become part of the Eastern block, if he could get a job.

He devotes a whole article to the reasons why this is a mistaken view—which a lot of us, and probably the young graduate, know already. In this the three of us are valuable to examine the circumstances in this country which have led a clever young man to be so desperate?

Can Mr Levin imagine what it is like to come down from university full of hope and end up in the doldrums of being treated like a second-class citizen? The three of us, letters, regretfully declining your services; to be one of 1,000 graduates applying for a job requiring O-levels?

Does he really think that it is only for "material prosperity" that we have left our dry and warm country? A man wants some sign that his own country needs him?

Yours faithfully,  
PAMELA GILSON,  
71 Vineyard Hill Road, SW19.  
February 24.

## Care of ancient buildings

From Mr Trevor Jukes

Sir, Lord Mersey (February 19) says "Vegetation on a building is a parasite feeding on that building, ivy, for instance, destroys mortar". It would be interesting to know on what evidence he bases this statement.

In the standard work *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, W. J. Bean says "On houses ivy is rather beneficial than otherwise, keeping them dry and warm while the Royal Horticultural Society's Dictionary of Gardening says "For covering unsightly walls or buildings no evergreen is so good".

Having lived many years in ivy-clad houses, I have never seen any damage caused by the ivy.

Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR JUKES,  
Winchcroft Road,  
Barnet,  
Middlesex.  
February 19.

## Ins and outs

From Mr John Phillips

Sir, Mr Cazzler's "outvite" is neat (letter, February 24). I think Professor Higgins might also have approved of the Sudanese government's English bulletin on the occasion of an attempted coup in 1974 when "some inmates of the Central Prison were released by their out-mates", though not perhaps of a later paragraph which called on "Sudanese expatriates to return home and contribute to the national effort".

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PHILLIPS,  
Southwood,  
Gordon Road,  
Horsham,  
West Sussex.  
February 24.



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19

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SPORT

Football

# Dazed Dalglish lifts confused Scots

Israel 0 Scotland 1  
Kenny Dalglish, Scotland's most capped player, removed the threat of another World Cup failure by scoring the crucial second-half goal which beat Israel in Tel Aviv yesterday. As the memory of the humiliating 1-1 draw with Iran in Argentina two years ago loomed over the Scots, Dalglish squeezed in Robertson's corner after 54 minutes to spare the blushes of his colleagues.

The Liverpool striker, making his 78th appearance for Scotland, provided a remarkable second-half transformation after the Scots had been turned and twisted throughout the first half by Israel's effective use of the through ball. If Tabak and Dami, Israel's strikers, had shown any shooting accuracy, Scotland would not be sharing top position in group six with Portugal.

Had Dalglish had his way, though, he might not have gone out for the second half. He carried out the dressing room at the interval complaining of dizziness. Jack Stein, Scotland's manager, said: "I decided to give him 10 minutes after the interval to see how he managed. In that time he scored the goal, although he could hardly see at the time. That's why I took him off later."

It was not Mr Stein's only problem at half-time. He decided to bring on Willie Miller to play alongside his Aberdeen partner, Alex McLeish, and moved Kenny Burns to bolster the sagging midfield. The new formula was an instant success.

Miller and McLeish may not have managed to give the Scottish defence the stability it desperately required but Burns' ball-winning prowess increased the frequency of the Scottish pass so few and far between in the first half. Dalglish, showing a renewed appetite for his work and twice making telling runs, only to be caught out by the Israeli defence, pressed hard after 54 minutes.

Robertson, who had moved from the left to the right wing and was earlier booked for dissent by the Romanian referee, sent a coping corner kick which was clocked down by McLeish into



Outnumbered and outplayed: Archibald (left) is tackled by Nissim Cohen (2) and Machness during Scotland's muddled first half in the Ramat Gan Stadium.

the path of Dalglish, who scored from close range. Dalglish soon made way for Andy Gray, having carried out the job Mr Stein had asked of him.

The star of the Scottish side was Alan Rough, Patrick Thistle's goalkeeper, whose series of excellent saves in the first half kept the game alive long enough for Scotland to make their revival. Time and again the often criticized Rough kicked life and limb to save at the feet of the quicksilver Israeli attackers, whose only real threat was a free kick which he finished.

Burns, too, revelled in his mid-

field role after the break and Dalglish showed flashes of the form he regularly displays in a Liverpool shirt. Until Burns' arrival, Scotland's play was carried out by the first half captain, Archie Gemmill, who had been unusually out of touch and Steve Archibald, of Tottenham Hotspur, made an insignificant contribution.

Mr Stein later admitted: "The first half was a shambles but we took our chance when it came, whereas Israel didn't. In a way, I'm sorry for Israel, who played well but got nothing in return. However, I'm hoping they'll do us better next time."

Referee: O. P. Anderson (Romania)

Group six

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	2	2	1	0	4	0	5
Scotland	2	1	1	0	4	0	3
N Ireland	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Sweden	2	0	2	2	2	2	2

## Too many players and too few supporters

by Gerald Richmond  
Ireland U-21 0  
An instant success over the Republic of Ireland in last night's international at Anfield. The Ireland manager, Ron Gower, was present, along with his staff of coaches, but it was not an evening on which too many decisions could be drawn, except, perhaps, that these fixtures should be played behind closed doors.

England brought on all five of their substitutes, and Ireland used 10 of their 30 names on the team sheet was not given a run and a must have wondered what he had done to lose his copybook. He was surely carrying expert to excess and it is little wonder that the match was so disjointed, with neither side able to construct anything very meaningful and few players doing anything to improve their own or their team's position.

Shaw, who has scored 17 goals in 10 appearances, was a constant presence, with fewer than 100 present, and there was little to make them forget the bitter old.

The opening was suspicious for England, Shaw scoring within a couple of minutes. A move began

by Dyson was built up down the left by Hodgson and Fenwick and, when the centre came in low, Shaw was up and down twice to block shots from McMahon and Chapman before Shaw beat him. The Irish defence was re-opened several times, but the early promise of riches proved to be totally illusory.

Ireland had a word or two for themselves in the second half, with a goal from McMahon and a goal from Shaw, but the Irish defence was re-opened several times, but the early promise of riches proved to be totally illusory.

The best chance of the first half fell to Hodgson when, after a mistake by McMahon, Shaw and McMahon combined to give him a chance on the right. Once again the Irish defence was caught short, but Hodgson hit the bar. England were finding it hard to take advantage of Hodgson's pace, which his club, Middlesbrough, have used to effectively.

England brought on three of their substitutes immediately after

the interval and Hesford, whose brother plays Rugby Union, was soon in action, showing safe hands to block shots from McMahon and Chapman before Shaw beat him. The Irish defence was re-opened several times, but the early promise of riches proved to be totally illusory.

Burns, who has scored 17 goals in 10 appearances, was a constant presence, with fewer than 100 present, and there was little to make them forget the bitter old.

The opening was suspicious for England, Shaw scoring within a couple of minutes. A move began

## Woodcock finds the target

Italy XI 0 Rest of Europe 3  
Tony Woodcock, the England striker, now playing for FC Cologne, scored the third goal for a "Rest of Europe" team in the Olympic stadium in Rome last night. The match, watched by a crowd of 15,000, was played on a pitch which was the site of the earthquake in southern Italy last November.

Simonsen, the Danish striker, opened the scoring for the "Rest of Europe" team with a slow pace for most of the first half. Both teams seemed to make more of an effort after the interval.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

WORLD CUP, GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	2	2	1	0	4	0	5
Scotland	2	1	1	0	4	0	3
N Ireland	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Sweden	2	0	2	2	2	2	2

## Leicester's hopes of Cruyff fade

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent  
Leicester City's hopes of obtaining the coveted Dutch international Johan Cruyff last night appeared to have faded in much the same way as the hopes of Leicester City's previous prospective purchasers in England and abroad. Cruyff had said he would give his reply to the Leicester manager, Alan Brown, by the end of the week. The offer from Leicester was said to have been worth up to £500,000, but Leicester City's previous prospective purchasers in England and abroad. Cruyff had said he would give his reply to the Leicester manager, Alan Brown, by the end of the week.

## Eye defect puts Rose out of England tour

From John Woodcock  
Georgetown, Feb 25  
As if the loss of Bob Willis and the departure of Ian Botham were not enough, the England team is now to lose Brian Rose, who will leave for home on the day convenient flight with a "visual defect" in his right eye. There is also a delicate situation developing regarding Robin Jackman's cricketing connections with South Africa.

Rose visited a specialist here yesterday who was sufficiently concerned by what he found to recommend that Rose should have a laser operation to correct the defect. It is not clear whether Rose will be able to play in Saturday's Test match which will not get on until the 28th.

The tour would be ended rather than any such guarantee be given. If Jackman, who has not the authority of South Africa, is to doubt the propriety of a tour to Barbados and Antigua as to risk endangering the remainder of the tour, there are political waters of many currents. Alan Smith, manager of the England team, has spent some time today in consultation with the British High Commissioner to Guyana. In government circles Smith is a well-known figure. One more senior than Roy Fredericks, the former West Indian Test player and now the Minister of Sport, who will have to decide whether Guyana will so court the unpopularity of Barbados and Antigua as to risk endangering the remainder of the tour.

## Squash rackets British title still lies in Australian hands

By Rex Bellamy  
Squash Rackets Correspondent  
For the fifth time in seven years there will be an all-Australian final in the British women's open championship, sponsored by Pirelli, at Hove. It follows that the title will go to Australia for the 20th consecutive year in the semi-final round. Vicki Holman, from Adelaide and the defending champion, beat Rose Sanderson, from Melbourne by 9-5, 9-1, 9-5, 9-1.

Miss Zacheriah is old enough to be Miss Opie's mother, 32, but she is a formidable player. She beat the seventh, third and sixth seeds in consecutive matches at the cost of only two games. This performance by a part-time diagnostic radiographer is some compensation for the disappointment in the defeat of Miss Opie, aged 17, whose talent and temperament would not make for a long career in the sport. The match was won and lost on the backhand, where Miss Zacheriah's skills in burying the ball to a length or playing short with an angle or a drop were often more telling because of her

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23 Pts .....£80.70  
22 Pts .....£32.60  
21 Pts .....£6.05  
20 Pts .....£2.15

4 DRAWS .....£2.25  
(NOTHING BARRED)  
9 HOMES .....£8.50  
(NOTHING BARRED)  
5 AWAYS .....£741.35  
(NOTHING BARRED)

## Rugby Union Multi-racial sides to play Irish tourists

From Ray Kennedy  
Johannesburg, Feb 25  
Ireland will play at least four multi-racial teams on their seven-day tour of South Africa this summer. The itinerary for the tour, which the Republic of Ireland Rugby Board announced today by Alex Kellerman, secretary of the South African Rugby Board, will be played between Ireland and South Africa in Cape Town on May 30 and on June 6 in Durban. The tour will be the first since 1953 when Ireland played a match against the South African national under-25 side. The other games will be against the South African national under-25 side, a Country Districts "A" team and a Gold Cup team.

## Cowley schoolboys must handle rather than kick—and are undefeated to boot

When a young rugby player at Cowley School, St. Helen's, has the temerity to kick the ball instead of handling it, retribution is swift and terrible. He is sent off. He may be allowed to return but the point has been made. Rugby is a running game.

Such is Cowley's success that one might be forgiven for presuming that they had embraced a new and exciting brand of rugby system, whereby promising 12-year-olds were taken off academic studies and subjected to full-time rugby under the school's discipline. In fact, the school's discipline is a former England lock and British Rugby League player.

## French return to original Irish selection for Welsh

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent  
The French team for their third international of the season, against Wales in Paris on Saturday evening, will be the same as the team that won the last game in Dublin. On that occasion, the Welsh captain, Blain, and the centre, Didier Dordor, were taken off in the first half and replaced by Alain Cassade and Patrick Mesny.

## Beaumont to lead invitation side in South Africa

Johannesburg, Feb 25—Billy Beaumont, who was captain of the British team that toured South Africa last year, will lead a strong Old Collegians invitation side to play the Orange Free State in Bloemfontein on April 11, it was announced here today.

## Davies stages an action replay for Cambridge

Cambridge U.S. Anti-Assassins 27  
March 10—The Cambridge University team will stage an action replay of the 1976-77 season, when they were defeated by the Anti-Assassins, a Northern Ireland team, in a match played in both of the university's tries.

## French accent that is on the running game

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## Rugby League Cup problems for Keighley as Fearnley resigns

By Keith Macklin  
With five days to go before the start of the Rugby League Cup, Keighley have lost their manager, Albert Fearnley, a former Halifax and Batley player, who has been in charge of the team since he joined them in 1976.

## French accent that is on the running game

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS



**Stock markets**

FT 1st 502.0 up 7.5  
FT 2nd 502.0 up 7.5  
FT 3rd 502.0 up 7.5  
FT 4th 502.0 up 7.5  
FT 5th 502.0 up 7.5  
FT 6th 502.0 up 7.5

**Sterling**

\$2.285, down 55 cents  
£1 50p 52.2 down 0.3

**Dollar**

Index 99.6 down 0.2  
DM 2.1075 down 115pts

**Gold**

\$499.50, down \$2

**Money**

3 mth sterling 12 1/4-12 1/2  
3 mth Euro \$ 16 1/4-16 1/2  
6 mth Euro \$ 16 1/4-16 1/2

### IN BRIEF

## MLR hopes lift index through 500 level

The FT index passed the 500 mark yesterday after hours to lose 40 points for the first time since the Chancellor announced his mini-Budget proposals on November 24. Since then, the index has risen, recording a low of 406.9 on January 3. The all-time high as on May 6, 1979, when it reached 558.6.

Yesterday's impetus came from the growing belief that the Budget will include a 3 per cent cut in Minimum Lending Rate and a 10 per cent increase in the rate of inflation. It was enough to lift the index to 500.1, a level not reached since the 1979 crash.

Glits, however, spent an entire day, with long market rises of up to £1 and shorts of up to £1.16 and £3.16. The market today will be looking for reassurance from the Chancellor's speech on February 26, to whether dividend payments will be maintained.

Market report, page 22

## Nigeria pays £56m for P nationalization

British Petroleum will receive £56m for the nationalization of its oil fields in Nigeria under an agreement to be signed in the next few days.

The agreement was a package negotiated after Nigeria's nationalization in 1979 of BP's assets, and involves compensation, other claims and inter-claims between the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and BP.

## Esso contract

Esso's main contract, the main contract for Esso's Mossmoray petrochemical complex in a new £2m to £3m contract for more than £2m to Tractor works of Inverkeithing, Fife site preparation.

## Dockers' payments

Enhanced severance payments of up to £16,000 will be paid to Liverpool dockers as part of Mersey Docks and Harbour Company's 1980 cut in its labour force to 1,500.

## 8m rig order

British Gas is ordering a 8m rig for its revolutionary drilling project to exploit Morecambe Bay gas field. The order is worth £18m.

## Electricity move

The Government has reformed its intention to introduce legislation to end the state monopoly on the supply of electricity in a letter to the Association of British General-Ser Manufacturers.

## ationwide computers

Two computer systems, have been ordered from Sperry Univac in a £4.7m contract by Nationwide Building Society.

## all Street higher

In the New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones industrial average closed 8.30 points at 954.40. The S&P 500 was 114.6, and the £ was 0.551853.

## Textiles slump leaves Carrington Viyella with £31.6m loss

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The worst textiles recession since the 1930s saw Carrington Viyella, one of the four largest textile companies in the country, announced yesterday losses of £31.6m for 1980 and pass its final dividend. The losses included £21.5m to cover the far reaching restructuring and redundancy programme implemented last year.

Some 33 out of 113 factories have been closed and the United Kingdom workforce has been cut from 24,800 to 18,500.

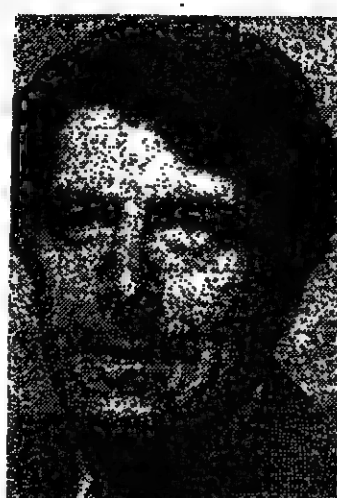
Carrington Viyella is 49 per cent owned by ICI, the chemicals group, and is a major customer for ICI's fibres, taking about £20m in sales. ICI will report its results today amid fears in the City that the group may take the drastic step of cutting its dividend because of the poor trading conditions brought about by the recession.

Poor results had been widely expected from Carrington Viyella but the scale of the losses and closure costs came as a surprise. The group made a loss before tax of £3.3m compared with a £8.5m profit in 1979.

Before interest charges the group still made a profit, although much reduced from £14.2m to £3.4m, most of which was earned by its overseas operations. But interest charges rose from £8.4m to £11.5m.

Mr William Fieldhouse, who took over last September as chairman after the abrupt departure of Mr Derrick Horby, who stayed only two months in the post, said that during 1980 "the group operated in an environment where the United Kingdom textile industry experienced its worst recession since the 1930s. In addition to low United Kingdom demand, the group had to face difficulties arising from the increasing value of sterling."

Mr Fieldhouse said that, at the end of the 1970s, the group had recognized the problems it faced. But much more fundamental measures had proved necessary because of the depth of the recession.



Mr William Fieldhouse: denied rumours of "lifeboat" rescue operation for the group.

Mr Fieldhouse denied City rumours that Carrington's bankers had mounted a "lifeboat" rescue operation to save the group, although he confirmed there had been a technical default on some loans last October. He added that, despite the losses and closure costs, borrowings were reduced by £4m last year.

As expected, Carrington passed its final dividend after also omitting the interim payment. The shares closed 1p up at 13 1/2p yesterday.

Mr Fieldhouse said the group would benefit from reductions in the cost structure during 1981 but said: "The overall trading environment shows little sign of recovery and, under these circumstances, the board will continue to concentrate on the optimization of cash flow."

Carrington's annual report, due next month, is expected to show compensation to former directors of about £100,000. Of this between £70,000 to £80,000 is believed to have been paid to Mr Horby.

Textiles review, page 20  
Financial Editor, page 21

## Harrisons to pay £22m for US acquisitions

By Our Financial Staff

Harrisons & Crosfield, the international manufacturing, trading and plantations group, is paying around £22m to North American Phillips Corporation for a group of chemical companies in the United States.

The deal, which has yet to be approved by the board of directors, concerns businesses with combined sales of £90m. It includes the acquisition of the industrial chemicals division, textile maintenance division and pest control division of Thompson-Bayward Chemical Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of North American Phillips Corporation.

Harrisons & Crosfield had already disclosed earlier this month that it was negotiating with an unnamed American company for new acquisitions in its offer documents for London & Sumatra.

North American Phillips specializes in consumer products and services as well as in electronic and electrical com-

ponents. About 62 per cent of its shares are owned by Harford National Bank and Trust Company as trustees of the United States Phillips Trust.

Shareholders of Phillips, the large multinational electrical group based in The Netherlands, are the ultimate beneficiaries of the trust.

Harrisons Malaysian Estates, the 80.8 per cent owned subsidiary of Harrisons & Crosfield, yesterday reported lower interim figures. For the six months to the end of last September, profits before tax fell from £15.15m to £13.32m and sales were down from £35.6m to £31.3m.

The interim dividend has been held at 3.6p gross a share. The group blames the fall for currency conversion losses over an earlier debt period for some of its commodities.

The group's oil palm products had been badly affected while cocoa prices have been persistently low.

## Chrysler clear for cash

Chrysler has reached a compromise agreement with a group of lenders, apparently clearing the way for the vehicle maker to secure badly needed federal rescue funds, after two days of intense negotiating.

Chrysler and the banks came to terms on the new agreement on Monday afternoon and the arrangement was approved by officials of the Federal Loan Board.

The main feature is a provision for Chrysler to make an

early payment of the \$68m (£30.5m) which it owed to about 150 lenders.

The banks also demanded the payment because of the company's precarious financial situation.

The new agreement breaks an impasse that had developed between the company and the banks over an earlier debt agreement which the Federal Loan Board said was a condition for the use of any more federal loan guarantees.

## Brussels tightening steel aid scrutiny

From Michael Horaby

Brussels, Feb 25

The European Commission intends to scrutinize state aid for steel industries much more closely.

Vice-President Etienne Davignon, the EEC commissioner for industrial policy, will tell ministers next week that Brussels would want longer notice to ensure that state aid for steel industries would be an aid that was not clearly and demonstrably linked to rationalization programmes.

Vice-President Davignon will also argue in favour of offering financial incentives to plant closures. One possibility would be to allow debts to be written off as part of aid for closure programmes.

Another idea would be to offer what he calls "closure premiums". The EEC would fund part of the cost of plant closures provided these were coupled by the member state concerned with investment in alternative employment and diversification.

Dr Otto Lambsdorff, the West German Economics Minister will be in London today for talks with Cabinet ministers. They will discuss EEC energy and steel policies, on which Britain and West Germany have had strong differences.

The Commission also thinks that efficiency could be promoted by more cooperation between steel enterprises, which could make possible more intense specialization, shared use of plant and joint purchase of raw materials.

Member states were urged today to agree before the end of June on a new coordinated strategy for rationalizing the European steel industry to a point where it was viable and could compete internationally without subsidy.

At a press conference here, Vice-President Davignon, said he would be asking industry ministers to endorse this timetable and agree on a series of bills besetting the steel sector at their meeting in Brussels on March 3.

Among the elements that should be included in the new approach was a much tighter control of state aid to the steel industry to ensure that such assistance did not merely keep uncompetitive plant in operation.

A more flexible interpretation of EEC competition rules to permit more mergers and cooperation between steel enterprises could serve the end of a slimmer and more efficient industry.

"We must not simply look at day-to-day developments, but try to determine together what level of production capacity and employment is compatible over the longer term with a return to profitability and international competitiveness," he said.

A report sent to member

states by the Commission in preparation for next week's meeting estimates that steel plants are now working at no more than 55 per cent of capacity, compared with 80 per cent in 1974, the last pre-crisis year.

On this basis the Commission calculates that some 40 million tonnes of steel production capacity in the EEC is surplus to need, and that despite plant closures the surplus will still be at least 25 million tonnes in 1983, even on the most favourable assumptions about future demand for steel.

The number of steel workers in the EEC has shrunk from 792,000 in 1975 to 603,000 at the end of last year, a drop of 24 per cent according to the report, but it says, further shrinkage is unavoidable.

While it is difficult to make forecasts about employment, because it depends on the effective reduction of capacity and increases in productivity, it is clear that there will have to be further important job losses in the steel industry," the report adds.

## Inspectors study abuse of tax havens

Paris, Feb 25.—Tax inspectors from more than 20 countries have met here for three days, under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, to discuss the increasing abuse of tax havens by multinational companies.

The talks focused on the way the multinationals set up subsidiaries in countries where taxes are low.

There is nothing illegal in corporations attempting to maximize their profits by minimizing their tax obligations.

But the suspicions of tax authorities have been aroused by the consistently higher sales and profits of some corporate subsidiaries operating in tax havens and low-tax countries, compared with the lower earnings that the same companies report in high-tax areas of operations.

What this often implies is that the companies have been engaging in internal transactions intended to disguise their true tax liabilities.

Transfer pricing is quite easy to disguise and hard to prove. What is really difficult is in getting the evidence and obtaining convictions," one participant at the meeting said.

Tax officials credit American corporations with pioneering the use and abuse of tax havens in the 1960s. But now countries such as Sweden and Netherlands have become increasingly interested in detecting the more sophisticated techniques by which companies hide their true earnings.

Multinational companies are estimated to have sheltered thousands of millions of dollars from United States tax authorities through imaginative transfer pricing practices.

## Committee will review MacGregor progress

By Peter Hill

The formation of a review committee to monitor the progress made by Sir Ian MacGregor, the chairman of the British Steel Corporation, towards meeting its performance targets will be announced soon by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry.

The committee will determine the payments to Lazard Freres, American investment bankers, under the terms of the £1.8m "transfer deal" negotiated by the Government last year when he was chosen as chairman of British Steel.

The Government announced

earlier this week that it would provide the Corporation with a further £880m over the next 15 months and write off £3,500m debt.

Sir Keith has now confirmed that the members of the committee and the criteria on which payments will be based would be announced shortly.

Almost a year has elapsed since Mr MacGregor's appointment, and the criteria for the lump sum of £575,000 for his three-year contract with provision for pro rata refunds to be made if he failed to complete the full term. Subject to his meeting the performance criteria, Lazard will receive a maximum of £700,000 in 1984.

achievement of annual profit and cash targets, improved market share in domestic and export markets and improved productivity and labour relations. The committee will have five members, two nominated by the Department of Industry, two by Mr MacGregor and an independent chairman.

When Mr MacGregor took up his appointment, the Government paid Lazard Freres a lump sum of £575,000 for his three-year contract with provision for pro rata refunds to be made if he failed to complete the full term. Subject to his meeting the performance criteria, Lazard will receive a maximum of £700,000 in 1984.

## Misuse of EEC funds claimed

By John Young

Planning Reporter

Leaders of the construction industry claimed yesterday that the Government was refusing to release funds from the EEC which were earmarked for specific development projects.

Instead, it was creating them as general capital receipts and claiming the right to use them for whatever purpose it chose.

The accusation was made after a meeting between Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, and the Group of Eight, which represents builders, architects, engineers, surveyors, materials suppliers and the construction trade unions.

Mr Bryan Jefferson, president of the Royal Institute of

British Architects, said that Mr Heseltine appeared to be "quite unrepentant" about the Government's attitude.

Ministers evidently took the view that, so long as Britain was contributing more to the Community budget than it was taking out, it was the Cabinet's prerogative to decide how to use any "clawbacks".

It is understood that the Labour Government adopted the same attitude when it was in office. Members of the Group of Eight have expressed outrage but are unsure what action they can take, particularly because it is almost impossible to distinguish between funds for what the Government would

have spent anyway from its own resources.

The group, which had planned to use the meeting to plead for selective concessions, decided instead to use it for a full-scale assault on government policies which, it claimed, had brought the industry "to its knees".

Mr George Henderson, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that unemployment in the industry was now some 400,000.

Public investment was vital to modernizing the country's infrastructure, he wanted to know why, when so much public money was being handed out to the steel and mining industries and to RL, the Government could not have a similar change of heart over construction.

## Fraser staff get letter from Lonrho

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho, the international trading group, bidding £158m for the House of Fraser stores group, yesterday sent a letter to Fraser shareholders and employees on the eve of the stores group's defence against the takeover.

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, Lonrho chief executive, says that if Fraser shareholders do not want to accept his 120c a share cash bid, he advises them to sell in the stock market. Fraser shares closed 3p higher last night at 147p.

He adds that Fraser employees, who have 2.5 million shares in trust under a profit-linked share plan, would be better off directing trustees to accept Lonrho's offer.

The Mergers Panel of the Office of Fair Trading met yesterday as part of the process of deciding whether the OFT would recommend a Monopolies Commission investigation. That recommendation is likely to go to Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, tonight or tomorrow.

In its shareholders' letter, Lonrho says: "Your (Fraser) directors are striving for a recommendation to the Monopolies Commission, which could mean withdrawal of our bid, or a great delay and an immediate fall in the market price."

## ConsGold may merge Australian interests

By Michael Prest

Mining Correspondent

Consolidated Gold Fields, one of Britain's largest mining finance houses, is considering a merger of its Australian interests.

It is planning to merge its Australian subsidiary, Consolidated Gold Fields of Australia, with three of CGFA's subsidiaries: Realison, the Tasmanian tin mine; Associated Minerals, a producer of mineral sands; and Mount Lyell, a copper mine.

A merger would be based on the relative contribution of the companies to the merged group, said Mr Max Roberts, Cons Gold Australia chairman said. A further statement would be made as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, another mining finance house, Charter Consolidated, said that it is to pay BP £24.8m for Alexander Shand, the mining, engineering and industrial group.

Charter has bought Alexander Shand after lengthy negotiations with British Petroleum, which had acquired the company as part of its purchase of Selection Trust, another mining finance house. Charter then received about £100m for its one-third stake in Selection.

One of Shand's attractions is its coal operations on licence in the company issuing another in the company's coal operations. It also controls the Fulton

Mine, a coal mine in Indiana which produces about 250,000 tonnes a year. Although this is small, Charter sees Fulton as a springboard to developing its coal-mining interests.

In addition, Shand is involved in building, civil engineering, quarrying and plant hire. Charter will support the development of Shand's business in the United Kingdom and abroad.

A subsidiary of Charter, Pandrol, has also gone into an equal joint partnership with Panetti, a Geneva company, to acquire Spenn Rail Services, an American rail track maintenance company. The cost to Pandrol is £10.2m (about £4m).

A Charter spokesman said that negotiations continued with BP on taking a stake in producing North Sea oil wells. These discussions, like the Shand deal, are also the outcome of the Selection sale.

A third British mining finance house, Rio Tinto-Zinc, said that Lonrho, its indirectly controlled Canadian subsidiary, made net earnings during 1980 of £57.6m compared with £57.6m in 1979.

But pretax results were less favourable because of lower prices for molybdenum, reduced copper production, and higher operating costs. Capital expenditure, which includes a \$160m expansion programme, held down the tax charge.

Financial Editor, page 21  
Mining Column, page 22

## Volcker warning on tougher money policy

From Frank Vogel

Washington, Feb 25

Monetary policies in the United States are going to become tighter as the Federal Reserve Board aims to slow the rate of money supply growth significantly according to Mr Paul Volcker, the Fed chairman.

The board's 1981 policies, outlined by Mr Volcker today, will almost certainly ensure continued high interest rates. Dr Henry Kaufman of the Salomon Brothers merchant bank predicted that commercial bank prime rate would start moving up again after falling to 17 or 18 per cent in the next couple of weeks.

Mr Volcker gave a warning that tight policies were crucial in fighting inflation and the fight this year would "produce a great deal of stress and strain".

His comments came as the Bureau of Labour statistics announced that consumer prices rose by 0.7 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis in January, after a 1 per cent gain in December. New oil price rises and other factors are expected to produce sharper gains in coming months.

M1A and M1B, the narrow measures of the money stock, rose respectively by 6 1/2 per cent and 6 1/2 per cent last year; and the new target range for M1A is between 3 and 5 1/2 per cent while for M1B it is between 3 1/2 and 6 per cent. Mr Volcker stressed: "We are not aiming for the top end of the ranges."

M2 and M3, the broader money stock measures, rose by 9.8 per cent and 9.9 per cent last year, while bank credit rose by 7.9 per cent. For 1981 the Fed is aiming to hold M2 growth to between 6 and 9 per cent, M3 to between 6 1/2 per

cent and 9 1/2 per cent and to limit bank credit growth to 6.5 per cent.

Mr Volcker said these new ranges "imply a significant deceleration of growth in the monetary aggregates".

In testimony before the Senate's banking committee, he outlined his Fed thinking by saying: "Our intent is not to accommodate inflationary forces; rather we mean to exert continuing restraint on growth in money and credit to squeeze out inflationary pressures."

On interest rates, the Fed chief gave a warning that declines would only be secured by reducing inflation, and that the "critical dimension is fiscal policy".

Mr Volcker said the cuts sought by President Reagan were "a minimum" and must be followed by additional cuts. There was no risk of cutting spending too much. The spending cuts were crucial in fighting inflation and securing unemployment. "Whatever stress and pain it takes," he refused to criticize President Reagan's plans for heavy tax cuts, but added that they could only be implemented without serious risk to the economy if major spending cuts were ahead. He would prefer to see tax cuts that were directed more specifically at boosting investment and work.

Mr Volcker's statement on monetary aims and targets gave the dollar a modest boost in European trading, helping it to recover part of the losses sustained against European currencies earlier in the day. After falling against the Deutsche mark to 2.0950, it finished with a net loss on the day of 1.15 pfennigs at DM2.1075.

## AMSTRAD

AMSTRAD CONSUMER ELECTRONICS LTD.

### Record half year results

\* Turnover up 58% from £4,797,000 to £7,595,000.

\* Pre-tax profit up 51% from £871,000 to £1,312,000.

\* Interim dividend of 1.56p net per share.

"I am confident, that barring unforeseen circumstances, our results will be satisfactory at the end of the current year."

Alan Sugar, Chairman

The full text of the Interim Statement may be obtained from the Company Secretary at

1-7 Garman Road, Tottenham, London N17 0UF.

## Novel etching process makes the going tough for counterfeiters

## A new laser disc to beat record pirates

A new process using laser technology is being used by a record manufacturer to fight disc counterfeiters. The technique is likely to go into the music industry about £220m each year.

The technique pioneered by A & M Records uses the laser to imprint a unique design on the surface of the record, making it easily identifiable and very difficult to copy.

This "disc watermark" has been developed by Mr Michael Foster, a former research scientist who works for Pk Discs of Los Angeles which has been developing techniques to print images on disc.

The normal groove of the record allows the laser to cut to a depth of 50/70 millionth of a metre. This cutting is done by a needle etching into the plastic from a



Patterns on the disc to beat the pirates.

A & M Records has used the technique on two of its latest best selling albums. The first was tested by the company at the end of last year on an album by Split Enz, the New Zealand rock group. The success of the venture has resulted in the company issuing another on the Styx rock band's latest album.

According to the company which is owned by Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss and has over 40 recording artists on contract, the technique is a milestone in the worldwide campaign against disc piracy.

Piracy has been troubling the record industry for years but has become increasingly more prominent in recent years as cheaper and more sophisticated

recording and copying equipment can be easily acquired. In theory the new technique is almost impossible to copy because the technology and the pattern designs are not easy to obtain.

The process is expensive and consequently will only be used for high volume and high selling albums. Pk Discs has estimated the cost of etching for each album series to be about \$10,000 (£4,480).

This week the Recording Industry Association of America estimated that more than \$55m (£24.6m) worth of bogus records, tapes and other equipment were seized by police in 1980.

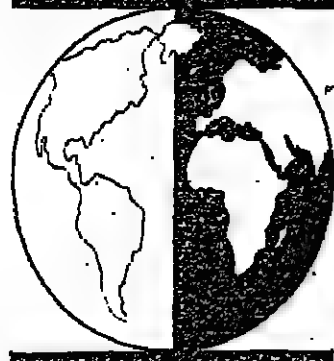
Bill Johnstone and Ivor Davis

## PRICE CHANGES

ses			
do Am Corp	17p to 645p	Marlevalle Con	19p to 713p
Clays Bank	12p to 400p	Mercantile Res	19p to 613p
to Hoids	14p to 278p	Middle Wits	15p to 680p
ert Bros	18p to 255p	SA Land	30p to 298p
Cont Gas	10p to 245p	Tabl Invest	10p to 136p

lls	
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## Turkey expecting £670m aid pledges

Mr Turgut Ozal, Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister and chief economic planner, said in Paris that his country expected to receive aid pledges of about \$1,500m (£670m) this year from members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

After meeting Mr Emile van Lennep, OECD's Secretary General, Mr Ozal said the United States and West Germany were likely to contribute 50 per cent or more of this year's aid package, which compares to \$1,200m pledged last year.

The Turkish minister hoped that the agreement would be finally agreed at the next OECD pledging session in mid-April.

Mr Ozal expected a new rescheduling agreement on \$300m of official debts.

The index of Dutch industrial raw material and semi-manufactured goods prices rose an unadjusted 1.7 per cent to a provisional 147.3 per cent (base 1975) in November from 144.7 in October, and was 147 per cent up from November, 1979. Central Statistics Office figures show.

An Iranian proposal to link the price of oil and natural gas has wide support within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, a spokesman for the organisation said. The proposal suggests equalising oil and gas prices according to their heating values.

An inter-party group has tabled a Bill in the Italian Senate on consumer protection aimed at implementing European Community directives on the subject. The Bill is said to be inspired in part by Britain's Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

The Zimbabwe Government has unveiled an economic policy designed to create "a socialist and egalitarian society". The aim will be to "achieve a greater and more equitable degree of ownership of natural resources".

Libya imported 12.7 tons of gold from Britain last month, worth about \$255m (£100m), according to customs statistics. This was sharply up on the four tons or so transferred during the previous two months.

Japanese car imports, worried by the threat of import restrictions, plan to increase sales in West Germany by only about 7 per cent this year after a 70 per cent increase in 1980.

Poland's 15 Western creditors have agreed after a three-day meeting in Paris to provide urgent short term aid to help the Warsaw Government deal with its external debts. No figure was given.

China will make greater use of foreign loans in future to extend export oriented industries or to import technology which China cannot produce itself.

Iraq is to appoint an international consultant in the next few weeks before inviting tenders from world car manufacturers to establish an Iraq car industry.

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Australia's only raw steel maker, said January output was 721,000 tonnes, against 644,000 tonnes in December.

French retail prices rose 1.2 per cent in January after a 0.9 per cent gain in December, to give a year on year rise of 12.8 per cent.

Canada's six largest chartered banks, led by the Royal Bank of Canada, are to provide a \$450m (£167m) standby credit facility for International Harvester Credit Corporation of Canada.

Saudi Arabia is to build a 200,000-tonne-a-year lubricating oil plant at Yanbu on the Red Sea coast. The plant will be operational by 1985.

## Future of UK satellite communications systems rests with Cabinet

# Space industry's defence hopes

The crises in coal, car and steel production have overshadowed a debate with far-reaching implications for the communications and electronics industry, which is hoping to provide the type of advanced satellites being planned for use from 1984 to the turn of the century for military communications and navigation, business systems, direct broadcasting and scientific research.

The ability of British companies to compete in one of the few sectors of manufacturing with an assured future turns on a decision to be made by the Cabinet on proposals by the Ministry of Defence for a new military communications satellite system.

This system is to be independent of the American and Nato networks, though it will provide for information to be exchanged between them.

The military requirement for such a project has emerged as the laboratories and factories concerned with the development of space systems in the United Kingdom are beginning to run out of new work. The new military programme, known as Sarncom/Skylab IV, would cost about £100m coming into service in 1984.

Although designed to meet the needs of all the services—the specifications have been issued as Navy, general Army and Air Force requirements—the dominant factor is the need to secure communications for the new Trident submarine force.

The need of the Royal Navy for command of the Trident missile force requires more communications equipment than are provided through the Nato network. The Ministry of Defence last launched its own satellite, Skynet II, in 1974. Shortly afterwards British defence communications were merged with the Nato system.

But Nato needs are not adequate to cover the range and capacity of communications necessary for the shipboard and submarine purposes of a Trident force.

The Nato satellites are designed for a well defined zone or, largely, land forces using high frequency radio links.

The new network sought by the Ministry of Defence makes an ultra high frequency band essential for command and control of its sea force. One of the main contenders for the project is Marconi Space and Defence Systems, one of the GEC group of companies, which provided Skynet II and has subsequently worked on international satellite communication technology.

The industrial lobby for the military space system is intense. Marconi maintains

that it alone has total competence both in ground stations and spaceborne electronics and communications equipment for the new generation of space stations in question. It claims it is the only company to have acted as prime contractor for an operational communications satellite system.

In addition to improving the company's ability to compete for the growing demand for communication satellites, the new project would provide 700 jobs immediately and 1,200 more in the long term. But the platform for carrying the equipment in space would be of American design.

An alternative scheme proposed by British Aerospace is for a platform built in Britain, but with the payload, which makes up to 85 per cent of the work, subcontracted.

Clearly a dilemma of some proportions is building up between the competing philosophies. And the burden of resolving it may rest with a committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Basil Marshall, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry, which has been asked to look at the health of Britain's telecommunications industry.

Pearce Wright

## Textile industry review forecasts more closures and job losses

By Edward Townsend

Britain's textile industry can expect no swift revival in demand, and more closures and redundancies appear certain, according to an industry review. Output is already the lowest this century, and employment has fallen by almost a third in the last year.

The review by Tattersall's, the Manchester-based consultants, says: "Without the facility of making sufficient money to avoid the monotonous approach of creditors, even more companies may be forced into the extremes of liquidation and receiverships, quite apart from alternative decisions to close individual units and reduce staffing."

Last year there were only two months when the number of workers in the clothing and textiles industry declined by less than 1,000, and one of those was the holiday month of August. By the end of December

the industry employed 44,150 compared with 63,530 a year earlier.

These gloomy predictions follow the year's results from Carrington Viyella showing a loss of £8.3m last year and expenditure of £21.5m on redundancies and closures.

A week ago Courtaulds said it was ending nylon yarn production in the United Kingdom, with the loss of 1,000 jobs, and today ICI's annual figures are expected to include substantial losses in its textile business.

The Tattersall's report says: "It has already been widely forecast that no real improvement in general economic conditions can be expected before the final stages of 1981. Not only does the textile industry fit in with such predictions, but there are those who contend that to accept such prophecies of that kind is to be wildly optimistic."

Whatever the outcome of this year's renegotiation of the agreement, the report says that 1981 will "come to be known as the year when the die is cast over the whole question of the importation of textiles."

Tattersall's Trade Review of the Cotton and Allied Textile Industries, F. W. Tattersall, Chapel House, 172, Chapel Street, Manchester M3 6BC. Price £12.

estate agents, and borrowers and lenders.

The report is particularly concerned about the relationship between building societies and the intermediaries such as solicitors, estate agents and mortgage brokers who both supply the societies with funds and also provide, the authors believe, possibly more than their fair share of borrowers.

Building Societies and the Consumer, National Consumer Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1.

Radical changes for building societies were recommended yesterday in a report commissioned by National Consumer Council. The wide-ranging document covers virtually every aspect of the movement from its relations with the Government to its dealings with local estate agents.

It was prepared by the Mutual Aid Centre, set up in 1977 by Lord Young of Darnley, formerly Mr Michael Young, one of the founders of the Consumers' Association and

first chairman of the National Consumer Council.

Among the recommendations made by Lord Young and Miss Marianne Riege, director of the centre, who were joint authors of the report, are the abolition of the building societies' recommended rate agreement, an urgent call for immediate legislation on societies, greater disclosure about leading policy and a public list of the amount of money each society receives from professional sources.

The authors' findings are based on talks with building society officials, solicitors,

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## Shopfloor sit-in at PVC plant

By R. W. Shakespeare

About 300 workers at a factory making PVC floor coverings at Whitefield on the northern outskirts of Manchester have taken over the plant, chained and padlocked the gate, built barricades and refused yesterday to let 200 office staff and management inside.

The shopfloor sit-in is being staged at the premises of James Halstead part of the James Halstead (Holdings) group.

It comes after a breakdown in pay negotiations. Union representatives claim there has been a unilateral decision by management to introduce a new wage deal that would mean the loss of about £200 in holiday pay for each worker.

After the office staff and executives had been turned away, Mr John Morris, factory manager, said: "The only contact we have had with the management is a few shouted remarks from cars."

"One of them called out that they would meet us on Monday. We intend to stay put and occupy the plant on a rota basis until they agree to reopen negotiations."

Mr Christopher Shaw, managing director, and his management team were operating from a local hotel yesterday.

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## Restraining energy demand

By Mr Hugh Richards

Sir, The Select Committee on Energy in its comments on the Government's nuclear power programme hint that it is not just the nuclear power industry that is in disarray but the Government's energy policy. They have discovered that the Department of Energy has no idea whether it is more cost effective to spend £1,300m on a single nuclear power station or to spend the same amount on energy conservation.

British energy policy is lopsided, being based on supplying the unrestrained demand for energy rather than on the prudent management of our energy resources.

Your leader (February 19) suggests that the Government

should stick to its nuclear power policy, even though this may lead to the over-ordering of nuclear plants, "because the nuclear industry needs the assurance of stable policies."

It is a pity that the industry is not a profligate and irresponsible one for Britain in the 1980s. A more mature and balanced approach to energy use is required. The nations which will survive energy supply shortages are those which recognize that energy use is a cost rather than a benefit and have the wit to restrain demand in good time.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH RICHARDS,  
Hunstanton House,  
Llandrinod Wells,  
Powys.

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It really did work—no batteries either! My first proper radio was bought at Woolworth's, total cost of the parts for a D-I-Y job was 10s 6d (52p).

Yours very truly,  
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Ammanville,  
Carlisle, CA4 9PQ.  
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## The balance in the sugar market

From Mr Ian Smith

Sir, Contrary to the view expressed by the Minister of Agriculture in the House of Commons debate, the changing balance in the sugar market has little to do with declining domestic consumption. It is the result of Government policy and the pursuit of a production target for beet sugar which, it is now acknowledged, is unlikely to be attained.

This is manifest in the slow expansion of the beet acreage and the British Sugar Corporation's decision to close four of its 17 factories. Even then, BSC will have surplus processing capacity in all but above average years. The minimum economic size for an established beet factory is about 40,000 tons of sugar per year; for a new one it is over 70,000 tons.

On this criteria, at least three more factories, along with several others have not been included in the BSC's modernization programme, must be regarded as uneconomic. This suggests that BSC's most

profitable level of production is well below existing output.

The Minister implies that Tate & Lyle's undertaking to market existing quantities of cane sugar from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states, satisfies our commitment under the Lomé Convention. But commercial contracts of limited duration fall well short of the undertaking, given by successive Governments, of an assured market for cane sugar on a continuing basis.

Furthermore, Tate & Lyle's undertaking will involve placing about 125,000 tons of ACP sugar per year in France, largely at the expense of cane sugar from the French overseas departments (DOM) of Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion. Because they are constitutionally part of France, DOM sugar is subject to administrative arrangements which differ from those which cover ACP sugar. This allows DOM sugar to be disposed of on the world market with the aid of export subsidies. The overall result will be a

reduction in cane sugar from developing countries refined and marketed in the European Community.

The reduction in cane sugar imports will deprive Britain of its most reliable source of supply. Moreover, growing dependence on the highly variable domestic beet crop could result in increased imports of European beet sugar. Once firmly established in the market, it would not be difficult for European sugar manufacturers to eliminate Tate & Lyle's Greenock refinery or BSC's beet factories in the West Midlands. It would be interesting to know at what stage our major industrial sugar users would then decide that their interests are best served by moving closer to their European source of supply.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN SMITH,  
Department of Economics,  
The University,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU.  
February 21.

Sir, I buy, say, a packet of stationery for my own use and the price is £10. I have to pay £15.00 VAT. If the firm for which I work buys the same packet of stationery it also pays £15.00 but recovers the VAT.

We are both consumers. What possible justification is there for this discrimination?

Yours faithfully,  
H. BERGER,  
165 Cassiobury Drive,  
Farnham, Surrey, GU14 2AQ.  
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## Examining anomaly in VAT charges

From Mr H. Berger

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Carrington's rearguard action

Carrington Vyella's battle for survival, and the savage contraction this has entailed, may have been precipitated by the worst recession in textiles since the 1930s. But it is clear too that Carrington's problems, as with others in the industry, have sprung from its failure to act sooner in reducing its commitment to bulk textiles.

Its over-exposure in the heavy end of the industry together with dependence on the United Kingdom market, where import penetration has been rising steadily during the 1970s and the past year has seen de-stocking by retailers on an unprecedented scale, have led to losses in 1980 far higher than anyone expected. Ignoring the previous year's above-the-line rationalization costs, there was a £19.2m turnaround to losses of £8.3m pre-tax rising to £31.6m at the bottom line.

The size of the closure and redundancy costs—£21.5m—is evidence that, if slow to act before, Carrington has been making up for this. The workforce has been cut by over a quarter with half the redundancies occurring in the woven fabrics division. At present levels of demand and prices Carrington cannot make profits after interest charges, but it should not take much of a pick-up now to put such a highly geared operation back in the black.

There is also encouragement to be drawn from the way Carrington has managed to control cash and actually reduce borrowings by £4m to £57m net, mainly by squeezing £21m out of stocks. So despite the huge write-down to reserves, gearing has only risen from 50 to 64 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Of course, there were still about £8m of cash closure costs and perhaps £2m of write-downs hiding in creditors at the year end and yet to flow out.

But over 1981 Carrington still expects to cut borrowings again and having won the support of its bankers when it ran into technical default on some loans last October, Carrington's survival now looks reasonably assured. Recovery, though, may be a long haul. The drop in demand seems to have bottomed out and the recent fall in sterling will take some of the import pressure off Carrington. But even up 1p at 135p the shares are not taking anything for granted.

● Having set out the likely pattern for the remainder of this year at the time of its £7m rights issue just before Christmas, Johnson Matthey is now delivering the goods.

Profits after nine months are running some £10m ahead of this point last year at £30.3m, and there is no doubt, as the company promised, that it will comfortably exceed last year's profit of £38.6m in the 1980-81 period.

The underlying trading picture remains much the same as it has for most of the year: broadly, industrial-related activities—metal fabricating, colour printing and so on—are finding recessionary conditions in the United Kingdom hard going, while JM's financial, banking and dealing businesses continue to flourish, bolstered of course by volatile metal prices.

Meanwhile, the balance sheet is rock solid. Borrowings have been eliminated following receipt of the rights money a couple of weeks ago, and plans for a chemical expansion in the United States and a number of acquisitions are all progressing.

JM is a cyclical stock and next year may not be so buoyant, but its approach suggests that a share price of 225p to yield around 3 per cent on the forecast dividend and selling at perhaps 8½ times likely earnings is sustainable.

### Imperial Group

#### Trying to turn the tide

After the recent restructuring, Imperial Group's priorities are to lift profits out of the five year run that has seen published earnings drop from a peak 15.5p to 11.3p a share last year despite a near one-third rise in capital employed to £1,689m.

Reading between the lines of the latest annual report, management still regard this as a daunting task. Apart from tobacco, the cash generating machine which rolls on through thick and thin, there is still a lot to be squeezed out of the other businesses. Remedial action on the food side will have

the biggest impact on the bottom line and so long as the group can get back to break-even in eggs and poultry—about the most that can be expected—trading profits here are capable of rising from last year's depressed £10m to more than £40m in a good year.

Now that Courage's production problems have largely been solved with the new Berkshire brewery, attention is being turned to improving the tied houses, to push Courage's return on capital employed up to the 12-14 per cent average of the other big brewers.

And there is now the challenge of making Howard Johnson's assets work more profitably. Last year this made a small contribution net of financing costs and Imperial clearly thinks that Ho-Jo can improve under its wing once it shakes off its more conservative traditions.

But Imperial does not seem to be allowing the profits famine to overshadow it. True, even before the cost of the Ho-Jo purchase and despite the £77m fall in working capital Imperial ran a cash deficit last year but there is no sign of this crippling its capital spending commitments.

The group is confident that last year's £32.6m ACT write-off caused by the low level of United Kingdom profits will soon be brought back. The £206m revaluation surplus at Ho-Jo has taken some of the pressure off the balance sheet where gearing will in any case fall this year from 78 to 65 per cent as its gilt holdings are used to repay eurodollar debt. But that figure is still probably 10-15 points higher than it should be for a company in Imperial's line of business. Imperial remains a group that has to convince investors that it can really make a diversification work. Those doubts are reflected in the 13 per cent yield.

### ConsGold

#### New look for Australia

Consolidated Gold Fields' reorganization of its Australian interests is not before time. The tangled two-tier, or in some cases three-tier, management structure had long been unwieldy. And it must often have seemed to shareholders that the company showed more interest in South Africa, or the United Kingdom, or more recently the United States, than in Australia just when that country was experiencing its greatest mining boom.

But to be fair, part of ConsGold's problem has been how to satisfy all the diverse Australian interests—not least the government—while not watering down its holding and therefore that of investors. It need not matter that ConsGold ends up with less than 50 per cent of the new merged company. It is important, however, that the new company is so capitalized as to maintain the value of shareholders' stakes.

This is as important for the minority shareholders in Mount Lyell, Renison and Associated Minerals as for everyone else. It is also essential in another sense, that the majority of the new company will be publicly quoted and ConsGold will not want the embarrassment of watching Australian investors turn their noses up at the offer. Certainly, the merger is clear evidence of the determination of ConsGold's management to realize the group's potential. The beauty of the Australian re-arrangement however, is that it should cost very little. ConsGold shareholders should sit tight.

● Spring seems to have come early to the discount houses this year. He steady fall in period rates in the money markets and the improved performance of the short gilt market should be making it a rather pleasant February. What is more, prospects over the coming months look reasonably good, too, provided, that is, the Bank of England does not turn up any unpleasant surprises with its final proposals on the liquidity arrangements for the banking sector.

Meanwhile, Gillett Brothers, which provided its own nasty surprise last year by slashing its dividend, has more than made up by the cut this time round. Profits, after tax and transfers to inner reserves, have recovered from £111,000 to £575,000, and the full year dividend goes up from 10.5p to 17.71p a share to give a gross yield of 9.9 per cent with the shares 18p higher, at 255p last night.

### Economic notebook

## Case for a controlled devaluation

After twelve months of worrying spasmodically about the high level of sterling, but of doing precious little about it, the Government appears to have come to the conclusion that the time has finally arrived for a rather more positive approach.

Clearly, when an exchange rate has risen on average by some 15 per cent in a year (and by a good deal more against some currencies), when the competitiveness of manufacturing industry has continued to decline steeply, when exporters are reporting a sharp fall in new orders and when industries which export mainly to the United States are going to be in a difficult situation, the Government must call for review.

The conclusions to which the Government is moving are not, however, entirely obvious as yet. Are we simply moving towards a short-term change in emphasis which will temporarily allow exchange rate considerations to take priority over domestic monetary considerations? Or are we about to see an altogether more radical rethinking of policy?

The conventional wisdom of the present Government has, of course, been that the role of government is to control the domestic money supply. Theoretically, that means that government concentrates on regulating the quantity of money in the economy, leaving market forces to determine both the internal and external price of the money.

In other words, it does not attempt to compete with interest rates in the foreign exchange market, but to influence the level of sterling has been essentially confined to smoothing operations.

Domestically, however, the Government has allowed the monetary authorities to set short-term interest rates at the level of their choice rather than allowing rates to be determined solely by market forces.

Indeed, it is partly because of this, some monetarists would argue, that a foreign exchange problem has arisen at all. The argument is that the Government allowed market forces to drive interest rates (and probably the exchange rate, too) appreciably higher during the spring of 1980, interest rates—and hence the exchange rate—would probably have been significantly lower.

### Reaction

That is as maybe: we will never know for certain. But the argument certainly contains more than a grain of truth.

Once monetary growth slows and interest rates fall, there is every reason to suppose that there will also be a downward reaction in the exchange rate—other things being equal, which, of course, they seldom are. The main caveat to the behaviour of relative interest rates. In other words, if sterling interest rates do fall, this may still not lower the exchange rate if other international rates are falling, too. At present the likely trend in other countries is far from clear.

German rates have already been pushed up by the authorities in order to narrow the differential with dollar interest rates. That move could be smartly reversed if there is a recent decline. But there must be considerable doubt as to where United States interest rates will head later this year, if the Reagan Administration starts to run into problems with its proposals for reducing federal spending.

As far as our own Government is concerned, then, the extent of United Kingdom interest rate cuts that may be necessary to achieve a given devaluation of sterling is almost impossible to assess. But that does not mean that it should not proceed (preferably in moderate steps rather than in

one great jump) and see what happens. The Government is going to have to take risks now whichever way it moves.

The real questions in the minds of officials at present are these: Can a largish cut in interest rates over, say, the next three months, be justified after last year's monetary shambles? Can it be afforded in terms of the monetary commitments of the medium-term financial strategy?

Can a devaluation ever be a "controlled" devaluation? And, if it becomes uncontrolled, how great would be the potential havoc in making new industrial forces and undermining United Kingdom capital markets?

The behaviour of the monetary aggregates may have been a mixed last year, but at present the signals firmly point to a significant slowdown in all the important monetary indicators, with the exception perhaps of public sector borrowing.

### Absurd

Given this, and given the reasonable expectation of an inflation rate of perhaps 9-10 per cent this year, short-term interest rates in this country are absurdly high in real terms. At this particular point in the cycle prime corporate borrowers should be able to obtain loans at a rate of 15 per cent or less, and probably a point or two more cheaply than they at present borrow in money markets (around 12½ per cent for three-month sterling).

I have said, it can never be quite certain what kind of effect such an interest rate structure would have on sterling. To the extent that it would probably leave the prospective real interest rate at about a point or two lower than that available on dollars or, more particularly, Deutschmarks, I would guess that the impact could be quite significant, notwithstanding sterling's underpinning by the Treasury (and hence the need to proceed with a degree of caution).

How serious, then, might be the domestic corollaries of such a move? The great fear, of course, is the implication for United Kingdom inflation. As the interest rate starts to rise, as the liquidity squeeze on the corporate sector eases and as the weak effect of lower interest rates and rising capital values stimulates the personal sector to turn its money into liquid holdings into consumer spending.

Certainly, there is no doubt that the high exchange rate over the last year has — at a price — been the main contributor to the sharpness of the fall in the dollar, and therefore, that a large cut in interest rates and a further fall in the exchange rate could put some of those hard won gains at risk.

Arguably, though, such a danger could be substantially offset by the present state of the labour market (or at least large sections of it), by a tight budget, by aggressive sales of National Savings to mop up personal liquidity, and by accepting the fact that funding at the longer end of the gilt market may have to be rather more costly than had been hoped (barring the introduction of a few index-linked issues).

As far as domestic money supply and the medium-term financial strategy go, the price to be paid could well turn out to be one of needing to keep a number of options open (at the risk of some loss of credibility) to a serious monetary explosion. How great that risk may be will depend in large measure on the size of the projected public sector borrowing requirement for 1981-82 and the Government's ability to lead it credibly by keeping public sector pay on target.

John Whitmore

## BL-Honda: obstacles on the route into Europe

Clifford Webb

BL's new Honda-designed car, the Triumph Acclaim, is still seven months away from its launch date, but already the controversial deal is proving so attractive to both companies that they are negotiating further joint ventures.

For a capital investment of only £70m—less than the cost of one new engine—BL has acquired an up-market saloon to provide much needed backing for the successful Metro. It will also help to bridge the gap in its model range before the new all-British LM10 medium saloon appears in two and a half years' time.

For Honda, a fairly late arrival in the United Kingdom, the deal has provided a way around the mounting European opposition to Japanese car imports. It remains to be seen, however, whether antagonism to the Anglo-Japanese deal will prevent the Acclaim being sold in mainland Europe as a "local product".

The French motor manufacturers are openly critical of BL's insistence that the Acclaim has the 50 per cent EEC content required for it to qualify as a Community product, and doubt about the European reaction may delay decisions in the present talks with Honda.

Five fully automated body pressing lines have been installed at Cowley to produce 150,000 panels, using tooling supplied by Honda. BL has made large savings by transferring 15 reconditioned presses from its recently closed Castle Bromwich factory and supplementing them with five new ones. The first panels were pressed last month.

An adjoining shop, which used to produce bodies for the now defunct MG sports car range, has been re-equipped with a new body building line. It is not as automated as the "robotized" Metro line at

Longbridge, but it has greater flexibility, enabling BL to switch production from one derivative of Acclaim to another in less than 20 minutes. It is already suggested that the first model—a four-door Angled version of the existing Honda Ballade—will be followed by a hatchback.

The paint finish on Honda cars, the envy of its rivals, is achieved by system known as cathodic electro-coating.

BL has installed a cathodic plant in a new three-tier building at Cowley. About half the £70m invested in the Acclaim went into this project. But, with a capacity of 3,500 bodies weekly, it is clearly designed with further new models in mind.

Final assembly and trim will be done in the shop which at present completes the Maxi and the Princess. The Maxi is being phased out of BL's line, and the two tracks for the Acclaim.

Engines will be installed by hydraulic lifts operating under the track—the first time this has been done at BL. The old system of lowering the body on to the "power train" required much manoeuvring by hand, involving minor, but rust-prone, damage.

Engines, gearboxes, and other components will be shipped by container from Japan to Tilbury. Initial production is due to start in April, so there is little time to iron out the inevitable bugs before volume output begins in June. This will build up stocks for the launch at the National Exhibition Centre Motor Show in October.

Mr Harold Musgrove, the head of BL car operations, says that BL is up against tight deadlines, but is convinced that he will

meet them. The men in the team which got the Metro under way are now working like slaves on the Acclaim to prove that the Metro's success was not a fluke, he says.

"For the first time for many years, we have got the opposition worrying about us instead of the other way round."

Mr Musgrove says that further ventures which offer a good return to both parties are being actively discussed. "We reckon that the Acclaim deal has saved 10,000 jobs in our factories and those of our suppliers. If we can save more jobs, why not?"

He refuses to throw any light on future deals, but one possible area is believed to be the production under licence of Honda engines and gearboxes. This would enable BL to update its power train range in a much shorter time span and at a saving of millions of pounds on development work.

Of the widespread discontent among British companies at their small stake in the Acclaim Mr Musgrove says: "We are buying locally produced tyres, batteries, glass, seats, carpets, drive shafts and radiators. In our view the Honda content is only 30 per cent of the ex-works price of the car."

He insists that the component lobby's claim that the Japanese content is more than half is based on the cost of materials and is misleading.

"Some of our component people have been taking us to the cleaners for years. We have tightened up considerably and naturally some of them don't like it. But the plain fact is that we cannot afford to pay more for our bits and pieces than the competition is paying."

He adds that a lot of discussions with suppliers but the bottom line has to be competitiveness.

Simon Scott Plummer

## What's in a name for Korea's piano makers?

The first thing which strikes you on visiting a Korean piano factory, apart from the pervasive smell of glue, is the variety of brandnames stamped on the instruments. On a recent tour of manufacturers in Inchon, an industrial town west of Seoul, I asked my guides why they were so keen on concealing the identity of their product. They replied that, as Korean companies are not yet household names in the musical world, nearly all the foreign customers themselves select the names under which the pianos will be sent to them.

Thus instruments marked "Alex Steinbach" go to Holland, while French dealers take them under the names of "Otto Renner" and "Choselux". For Singapore the choice is "Steinmeyer" and "Y. Thompson" and for Hong Kong "Steinmeyer" and "Sachmann".

For Japan pianos are marked "Rosenstock", "Klingel", "Gilbert", and "Melford" for the United States "Stegler" and "Schumann"; and for Canada "Wagner" and "Landauer".

German sounding names predominate and it is not difficult to imagine an unscrupulous piano dealer selling a Korean instrument to a customer on the basis that it was made in West Germany, the country with the greatest reputation for pianos. Although the country of origin may be stated on the instrument when it leaves the factory,

it is not at all obvious to the potential buyer looking round a showroom.

For instance, if you saw an instrument marked "Karl Müller Schurzmark" or "Weber Berlin", the final word in each case reminiscent of the Bechstein trademark, would you guess that it was from South Korea?

The names under which British dealers sell Korean pianos are less confusing. Robert Morley of south-east London uses the trade-mark "Elysian". J. Reid of Tottenham has his own name; J. Wood of Huddersfield the name of the manufacturer Sam Ick; and Rushworth of Liverpool either its trade mark "Apollo" or Sam Ick.

However, the British Piano Manufacturers' Association (PMA) is concerned that Korean instruments marked "Alex Steinbach" are coming into Britain via Holland and that dealers and customers may think that they are of German or Dutch origin. Alex Steinbach is the name under which Sam Ick sends pianos to Ruffa trading company in Rotterdam. Ruffa reexports about 60 of these each year to Britain, where they sell for around £1,100.

The PMA wants the Government to bring in regulations which would ensure that the origin of pianos is clearly and permanently marked on the instruments. At present there

is often nothing more than a sticker, which can be removed as easily as it was stuck on.

In 25 years the South Korean piano industry has grown to be the third largest in the non-communist world after its counterparts in Japan and the United States. According to the Korea Musical Instrument Industry Association (KMIA), production is expected to reach about 90,000 units this year, more than six times greater than that of the British industry in 1980.

This is shared among 20 or so makers, of which the biggest are Sam Ick, Young Chang, Hanil and Saultin. According to the KMIA, the first two account for four fifths of the domestic market.

The main markets for South Korean pianos are Italy, the United States, France, Japan, Britain took 242 pianos from Sam Ick last year and 150 from Young Chang. The latter quotes a f.o.b. price of \$839 (1975) for its cheapest upright, the U107, which is retailed by Morley's, its sole British customer, at £1,290. At this price it is more expensive than some British makes.

Morley's says that the difference between the two figures is due mainly to the fact that they have to do a substantial amount of work on the piano before it is ready for sale.

J. Reid sells a Sam Ick upright for £750 and J. Wood and Rushworth sell the same make for about £900.

## Business Diary: Wine, women and Hongkong

Alan Edis, 41, caused a stir in the motor industry when he resigned and left BL two months ago. A former product planning director of Leyland Cars, he had more recently been coordinating the supply pipeline from Honda Japan to BL's Cowley plant where the Triumph Acclaim will shortly be going into production.

No I learn that he is joining the main board of Supra, the Midland-based components group. His departure at such a critical stage in the launching of a new car caused a buzz of speculation suggesting a behind-the-scenes row after yet another managerial reorganization.

Edis himself steadfastly refused to be drawn. Last night he was equally tight-lipped. Can it be that as commercial director for Supra with direct responsibility for building up its parts business he will have to deal with his old company? BL is already one of Supra's biggest customers.

Supra is headed by Quinton Hazell, who went into business at Colwyn Bay in 1946 with £100 capital and a small workshop. He built the firm bearing his own name into the largest auto-replacement parts business in Europe with a turnover of more than £40m.

In 1972 he sold out to Burmah Oil. Two years later he acquired a 30 per cent interest in Supra from the Neal family and began expanding it from its original base as a supplier to the motor manufacturers to one with interests in the more profitable replacement field.



See Foon Koppin (left), who was in the City yesterday, is number two for Holiday Inn in Asia (husband Rudiger is number one). She will be in Shanghai soon to tell the Chinese that what they really need is a Holiday Inn.

Eager as they may be to attract tourists, the Chinese have so far stopped short of allowing western firms to run hotels within their borders, so by western standards most accommodation there is awful.

Hongkong, where the Koppins are based, is to have a second Holiday Inn. Visitors to the increasingly expensive colony will be glad to know that there is likely to be over-capacity on the hotel market shortly, with a consequent hotel price war.

Mrs Koppin was in London on a marketing mission. She told Business Diary: "There has definitely been a softening in the market already and by next year there will be a lot of overcapacity. There is a lot of price-cutting at the moment, though we are not joining in."

Troubled duplicator company formerly known as Addressograph-Multigraph Incorporated. He joined the company in 1976 to rejuvenate it, but although sales have surged ahead and are now worth about £1,000m a year, profits have been so small as recently to fade into loss. New cash was needed; Ash had plans and opposed a special share sale of 14 per cent of the company's stock for \$25.6m to the large mutual

fund company, Madison Fund. Madison is now the largest shareholder and this is one reason perhaps for Ash's going.

● Mary Cunningham has taken to drink, but only in the strict business sense. The 29-year-old executive with a Harvard University business degree, rushed through the ranks of the Bendix Corporation only to quit after unfounded but persistent rumours of a romance between her and the Bendix chairman, William Agee.

Now she has taken a top post at the United States subsidiary of the Canadian Seagram distilling empire, owners of Chivas Regal Scotch here.

She is vice-president for strategic planning at Seagram is a little misleading, because she will not be directly involved in the company's new acquisitions and diversification through the ranks of the Canadian Seagram has cash in hand of more than \$4,000m and one of the biggest questions being asked in North American markets is what it plans to do with it all.

Miss Cunningham will not be involved in this area of the Broadman family business, despite her title. Instead she will be concentrating on developing a global marketing of the many Californian and European wines that are sold by Seagrams.

Coordinating the assorted wine businesses will be one of her first big tasks. She will report direct to Edgar Broadman, chairman and chief executive officer of Joseph E. Seagram and Sons Incorporated.

Broadman has had romantic troubles of his own. He won a divorce in 1971 after two months' marriage to Lady Carolyn Townsend.

● What do Virgins Farm, Genesis Green, Rake Manor and Breaky Bottom have in common?

Give in? Well, they are all English vineyards, as I discovered yesterday when I went along to the party given by the English Tourist Board and the English Country Cheese Council.

They were launching this year's ETB Taste of England guide and a competition open to caterers and catering employees who prepare the best "Ploegman's Platter", is, of course, staple businessperson's sustenance, but I gather the expression is of recent coinage. I was told that it goes back to the mid-1950s and to Sir Richard Tretham, the founder-chairman of the country cheese council.

He, it is said, applied the term to a bread and cheese menu served him in a pub. I could not reach Sir Richard yesterday, but I look forward to hearing the full story from him.

There was a nice moment yesterday at the reception to launch the English Tourist Board's Taste of England restaurant guide. A competition to guess the weight of a loaf was won not by a guest but by an ETB employee. He had joined the board two days before from the Department of Trade, among whose responsibilities is weights and measures. And part of his Taste of England prize was a bottle of German wine.

Ross Davies

## Gillett Brothers Discount Company Limited

### Preliminary Results

The directors of Gillett Brothers Discount Co Ltd announce the results (subject to audit) for the year ended 31st January, 1981.

	1981	1980
Group profit for the year after tax and transfer to contingencies (1980 group balance after tax and transfer from contingencies) .....	574,785	110,666
Balance brought forward .....	44,917	226,825
	619,702	337,491
Dividends paid and proposed .....	489,269	292,574
Balance carried forward .....	£130,433	£44,917

The directors propose a final dividend of 10.71% (15.3% gross). Together with the interim dividend paid in August last of 7% (10% gross) this amounts to a total of 17.71% (25.3% gross) for the year. Dividends paid in the previous year were an interim of 7% (10% gross) and a final of 3.5% (5% gross).

The following are the main items shown by the consolidated balance sheet.

	£	£
Total capital and published reserves .....	4,541,212	4,455,696
Bills discounted .....	161,995,047	164,666,272
Sterling and dollar certificates of deposit and currency instruments .....	6,416,455	3,407,048
Listed investments .....	20,346,332	12,809,172
Contingent liability on commercial and other bills, discounted .....	134,389,000	150,803,000



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## Equities break 500-barrier on Budget hopes

Prospects of cheaper money in the Budget saw equities surge through the 500 barrier yesterday despite fears of gloomy news from ICI, reporting later loss.

Selective buying in a thin market was again responsible, although dealers reported an increase in volume. Further worries about a confrontation over pay between the Government and various public sector workers, including the railwaymen, civil servants and water and sewage workers, was discounted for the time being.

Jobs remained demised by the continued strength of equities and kept a careful eye on the FT index which had been threatening to burst through the 500-barrier throughout the session. It finally broke through after hours, in spite of Wall Street opening lower, and closed 7.5 higher at 502.0—the highest since November 24 when it reached 508.2 after the last cut in MLR.

Investors' attention was again focussed on several special situations including the companies likely to gain most from the work involved with the royal wedding.

Among those continuing to benefit from the news were Birmingham Mint up 7p at 230p, Wedgwood 3p to 76p, Staffordshire Pottery 1p to 50p, Wedgwood Pottery 2p to 54p and Black & Edgington unchanged at 38p.

Royal Worcester, another beneficiary, slipped 3p to 290p on profit taking, while among London hotels expected to find increased trade, Trusthouse hardened 4p to 204p and Grand Metropolitan 3p to 174p.

GLTs, on the other hand, came in for a certain amount of profit taking in the wake of the exhaustion of the new tap

Treasury 12 per cent 1986 earlier in the week. Jobbers remained confident that MLR will be reduced by up to 3 per cent in the Budget but this did not stop the sellers who pushed prices £1 lower in longs and £1/16 in shorts.

Leading industrials had another strong run although one jobber admitted that nerves were becoming taut ahead of ICI figures later today. ICI itself was in a confident mood rising 2p to 290p but Beechams, where the delay in introducing the new drug Augmentin is causing worries, fell 3p to 164p.

On a brighter note, Glaxo rebounded 14p to 278p on news that it had received the go-ahead to market its own drug Ventolin in the United States.

Elsewhere, Unilever advanced 3p to 486p, ahead of figures next week, along with Fisons 2p to 140p, Hawker Siddeley 10p to 284p, GKN 1p to 149p and Metal Box 6p to 192p.

Shares of furniture group F. Wrighton leapt 10p to 180p after announcing big talks with an unnamed suitor and acquisition.

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GLTs, on the other hand, came in for a certain amount of profit taking in the wake of the exhaustion of the new tap

tion news lifted Estate & Agency 20p to 130p in properties. British Sugar was also a firm market, rising 8p to 285p ahead of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Expect sharp activity in the loan stocks of the First National Finance Corporation now that the company has decided to pay off the arrears of interest. The 57 per cent 1993/97 has 57p worth of arrears and is currently trading at 287.

mission's report on the bid from S. W. Berisford due next week.

Speculative attention was focused on Grippit, 8p higher at 138p. S. Lyles 8p to 59p, Western Motor 11p to 83p, Beales (J) 3p to 23p, Danks Gerverson 3p to 26p, Richard Clay 5p to 50p and Arrow Chemicals 4p to 40p.

Profit taking left Allebone 4p easier at 37p and selling pressure was reflected in Marshall Loxley 4p to 28p, Small &

Tidmas 8p to 55p and Montfort Knitting 4p to 48p.

Newcomer, British Aerospace made renewed progress 2p better at 178p—a 25p premium on the launch price—while, among the launches, shortage of stock pushed Thorne-EMI 4p higher at 322p with Rascal 5p stronger at 363p.

Plessey, reporting later today, eased nervously 1p to 306p, but Amstrad closed 3p firmer at 138p after a reasonable trading session.

Hoover suffered a further loss of confidence and the shares dipped 7p to 115p as Chloride Group added 3p to 40p on the back of the new venture with Lucas Industries into electric car development. Lucas ended 6p dearer at 183p.

Full-year figures from Berisford left the shares 4p higher at 56p and Hingworth Morris held firm at 181p despite the loss and no dividend. Interim figures from BPM Holdings left the shares 4p lower at 70p and Johnson Matthey could only manage a 1p rise to 225p after three-quarter figures.

Textiles had Carrington Wyella 1p stronger at 131p, 53m trading loss and no dividend, having recovered from an earlier fall of 1p to 11p. Nottingham Manufacturing, which reported recently, made headway with a 2p rise to 122p, while in shipping John I. Jacobs, reporting soon, rose 2p to 391p.

Harrisons Malaysian Estates slipped 1p to 188p on its figures and Malakoff Bernhard dipped 9p to 150p on profit taking.

Shortage of stock was another sign for a strong performance in stores where Moss Bros rose 8p to 188p and the prospect of the royal wedding and one large buyer attempting to increase his stake.

House of Fraser was wanted, up 3p at 147p, as it prepared to repel the advances of Lomha, unchanged at 101p. Most jobbers now believe that the bid will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Equity turnover on February 24 was £136.68m (18,658 bargains). Active contracts yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: Shell, Beecham, BP, Allebone, GEC, ICL, National Westminster Bank, BTR, Hawker Siddeley, ICI, Unilever, Lloyds Bank, Arrow Chemicals, BSEI deferred and Glaxo.

Traded Options: The strong performance in the main market again bubbled over yesterday as all contracts reached 2,043. Lomha is in demand on 664 contracts along with Imperial Group on 309 contracts.

Traditional Options saw calls in British Aerospace on 13p, First National Finance on 31p and ICL on 6p.

Amstrad tops £1.3m in record first half

By Peter Wainwright  
Amstrad, Consumer Electronics, the hi-fi and home electronics group offered for sale in April 1980 at 85p a share and oversubscribed ten times, reports a 58 per cent increase in sales to £7.6m, and a 51 per cent jump in pretax profits to a record £1.31m for the six months to December 31. The interim dividend is set at 2.23p a share gross, or at a fifth more than projected in the prospectus.

Mr Alan Sugar, chairman, who will be 34 next month, pointed out that the figures include the peak Christmas sales season. He added: "It would be unwise to conclude that similar rates of growth in turnover and profits can be sustained during the current six months."

He also stressed that the Inland Revenue's proposals for altering the basis of tax relief on stocks "could have a significant effect on Amstrad's future tax liability." In the latest figures tax which has been picked up by the company is £1.31m, the result was to lift the tax charge from £193,910 to £682,000, and lower net profits from £677,361 to £629,347. However, the dividend amounts only £53,572.

The move to a new 40,000 sq ft factory at Southend-on-Sea has been completed, but there will be removal costs and some disruption to production.

Amstrad's policy is to spot the success the big companies such as Pioneer and Sanyo have with their own lines and then undercut them with similar models made in the Far East or at home.

Results from EPM Holdings revealed yesterday that its main newspapers, the Birmingham Post, Evening Mail and Sunday Mercury, barely broke even in the six months to December.

Group pretax profits were more than halved in the period, down from £3.4m to £1.4m. Turnover increased from £3.3m to £3.3m. However, in line with dividend policy, the board has increased the interim gross payment to 2.25p from 2.05p last time. The "A" shares tumbled 3p to 72p on the news.

Sir Michael Clapham, the chairman, blamed the downturn

on the cyclical nature of newspaper advertising which had been hit by the worst recession since 1945. On the Evening Mail advertising sales were down by 17 per cent and the Birmingham Post saw a 5 per cent decline. Job advertising was down by about 70 per cent, but revenue has held up on the retailing display side.

The two daily newspapers and the Sunday paper just about broke even compared with profits of some £1.75m in the same period last time, Mr Geoffrey Battman, the financial director, said. He added that the group has probably seen the worst with current trading "bumping along".

Edgaston's pretax profit for the year to last March 31 was £113,900 and its assets were £3.2m. As at October, 1980, the portfolio was professionally valued for £8.4 at 56.92m.

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## Wrighton shares

## leap on news of bid approach

By Rosemary Unsworth

F. Wrighton & Sons, the family controlled kitchen furniture manufacturer, saw its shares shoot up by 22p to 65p yesterday after a takeover approach. The rise added £1m to the market capitalization, putting it at just under £3m.

Last night there were still no clues to the identity of the bidder although the stock market thought that it would be a United Kingdom company.

Since the board, which includes three Wrighton brothers, controls more than 60 per cent of the 4.5m ordinary shares, the bid will have to be agreed. As a result the market thought that there might be a hefty premium, if a bid is made, on last night's closing price.

Pearl Assurance and Prudential Assurance each have a 7 per cent holding in the group.

Last year group pretax profits were £185,000. In the six months to September 30, Wrighton slipped into a £180,000 loss and the board said that poor levels of demand would be a problem for the rest of the year.

Wrighton has embarked on a heavy rationalization programme in the past year and closed down its Walthamstow site and relocated its entire operation one site at Nazeing in Hertfordshire. The plan remains to dispose of the Walthamstow property, which would reduce net asset value a share from 150p to about 120p. Freshfield land and buildings are valued at £4.5m in the last set of accounts.

Among those tipped as possible bidders was Stag Furniture Holdings. But Mr P. V. Radford, the chairman, said he was not interested. Mr John Bentley of Bardsey, who has recently been investing in groups with strong assets, such as F. Pratt, said he never commented on bid suggestions.

Norcross, the manufacturer of Hygiene Kitchen furniture, was also mentioned but analysts thought it unlikely that the group would want another similar operation, particularly with retail trade in the doldrums.

David Reed of County Bank, Wrighton's financial advisers, said an announcement would be made as soon as possible although one was unlikely before the end of the week.

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## BPM down sharply

## in first half

By Margaret Pagano

Results from EPM Holdings revealed yesterday that its main newspapers, the Birmingham Post, Evening Mail and Sunday Mercury, barely broke even in the six months to December.

Group pretax profits were more than halved in the period, down from £3.4m to £1.4m. Turnover increased from £3.3m to £3.3m. However, in line with dividend policy, the board has increased the interim gross payment to 2.25p from 2.05p last time. The "A" shares tumbled 3p to 72p on the news.

Sir Michael Clapham, the chairman, blamed the downturn

on the cyclical nature of newspaper advertising which had been hit by the worst recession since 1945. On the Evening Mail advertising sales were down by 17 per cent and the Birmingham Post saw a 5 per cent decline. Job advertising was down by about 70 per cent, but revenue has held up on the retailing display side.

The two daily newspapers and the Sunday paper just about broke even compared with profits of some £1.75m in the same period last time, Mr Geoffrey Battman, the financial director, said. He added that the group has probably seen the worst with current trading "bumping along".

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ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Feb 9. Dealings End, Feb 27. § Contrango Day, March 2. Settlement Day, March 5

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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PERSONAL CHOICE



Brian Blessed who plays Peppone, the communist mayor, in *The Little World of Don Camillo* (BBC 2, 9.00)

At the heart of tonight's *Man Alive* (BBC 2, 9.30) is a tragic story that will not escape you. The film is about the special baby unit at Wycombe General Hospital. It concentrates on three tiny charges. One is terribly malnourished, the second is possibly brain-damaged. Both might well die, and their mothers love them. The third baby is fit, but his mother cannot love him. This latter case proves the least difficult for the special unit to deal with, but the other two throw into sharp relief the civil dilemma facing doctors and parents: when life could come merely existence, is it not sometimes "a loving thing to let" (to quote the title of tonight's carefully balanced film) to let severely handicapped baby die?

In terms of comic invention, where does *Ask a Policeman*? (BBC 2, 6.35) stand in the *Will Hay* canon? Very high, I would say, probably midway between *Oh, Mr. Porter!* which is Hay's best, and *Convict 99*. The links that connect it with *Oh, Mr. Porter!* are many and important: same director (Marcel Varnel), same producer (Edward Black), same writers (Marriott Edgar, J. G. O. Orlton), same editor (R. E. Dearing), and of course, the same two matchless supporting actors, Moore and Graham Moffatt. Racing buffs might be interested to note that the finale, in which the three comedians drive a London bus in pursuit of the smugglers, was filmed at Brooklands. The third film in Granada Television's Camera series (ITV, 10.00) which I would say are essential viewing for film buffs and omnivorous viewers for all who take their night out at the cinema for granted, is devoted to Charles Pathé, the man who is said to have industrialized the cinema. It was Pathé who reduced the middle-man into film distribution and gave the world its first newsreel. And—something I did not know before—was Pathé who made a film called *Battleship Potemkin* 20 years ago Eisenstein's classic.

I liked the pace, the wit, the voices and the resonances of night in last week's opening episode of *Patterson*, Radio 3's first comedy comedy. Episode two of this story of a ghostly radio personality can be heard tonight (10.00). Non-intellectuals need fear that Malcolm Bradbury's and Christopher Isherwood's comic in-jokes will exclude them... Martin Jenkins's clever deduction of Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* is repeated (Radio 3, 9.30). You might remember it: it's the one in which the cast provide their own sound effects, everything from tick to elemental noises.

HAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: \*STEREO; \*BLACK AND WHITE; \*REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 Open University. A Woman's Work. 7.30 Of Mice and Men. Closedown at 7.55.  
9.00 For Schools. Colleges: Pearl Harbour 40. Hiram's. 9.25 Maths: secondary. 9.47 Everyday Maths. 10.10 Merry-go-round. 10.35 Scene: Consumer rights. 11.02 It's Maths. 11.30 Welsh castle life. 11.55 Inside the Sea: dunes and. 12.20 Closedown.  
12.45 News. 1.00 Pebble MML at One. Today's edition includes Tony Blair's movie feature, Film Focus. 1.45 News. 2.00 You and Me: Visit to the factory where Shave's father works.  
2.15 For Schools. Colleges. Music Time. 2.40 Television Club. 3.00 *Chinua Achebe: A Casebook*. Two couples talk about the way in which they overcame sexual stress. 3.55 *Play School*: Joanne Cole's story. Don and Gail. Also on BBC 2 at 12.00.  
4.30 *Touché Turtle*: cartoon. The Shoe Must Go On. 4.35 *Jackanory*: Ronald Pictor's Joan Allen's story The Night the Stars were Gone. 4.40 *Scoby and Scrappy Doo*: cartoon. The Neon Phantom of the Roller Disco.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University. A profile of Charles Ives. 7.30 *Of Mice and Men*. 7.30 *Criminology*. Closedown at 7.55.  
11.00 *Play School*. The same as BBC 1. 3.55 Joanne Cole's story Don and Gail. Closedown at 11.25.  
4.50 *Open University*. The pre-school child: 5.15 *Childhood 5-10*: approaching the school. 5.40 *Charles Chaplin*. The *Rink* (1916). Charlie is a waiter at a roller-skating rink and he also comes a cropper. There are glances at moments of high-speed comedy. With Edna Purviance and Eric Campbell.  
6.10 *Maggie*. Episode four of this mini-series about a young Scottish girl with family problems. Starring Kerry Miller in the title role.

THAMES

9.30 For Schools. Handicapped children: 9.52 *How Journeys are made*; 10.09 *Consumer protection*; 10.31 *Evolution*; for A-level students; 10.53 *Biology for A-level students*; 11.27 *The travels of Dr Livingstone*; 11.44 *Picture Box*.  
12.00 *Gideon*: Cartoons about a duckling. The *Brook* features the voices of the 12.10 *Stepping Stones*: The story is hands and faces, and there is a story called *Flat Sandy*. 12.30 *The Sullivan*: Serial about an Australian family in the last war.  
1.00 News. 1.20 *Thames area news*. 1.30 *Together*: Another episode in this story of the folk who live in a block of flats. Today: the return of Arthur Saxon (John Malcolm).  
2.00 *After Noon Plus*: An interview with the American film actress Ellen Burstyn about her new film *Reverence*. Also a 15-year-old boy drives his racing car

5.00 *John Craven's Newsroom*: news stories for the younger viewers. 5.05 *Blue Peter*: Simon Brown helps to dig the foundations of the first of the Blue Peter Bridge and Bay Sale bungalows for handicapped people. 5.35 *The Pershires*: with Leonard Rossiter (r).  
5.45 *News*: with John Edwards. 5.55 *Regional news*: magazine of all regions units at 6.20 for Nation-wide which includes another Tony Blair's film about his days among London's down and out. The *Grass Roots* item is presented by Chris Miles, from Spotlight South West. 6.55 *Tomorrow's World*: Science for ever works.  
7.20 *Top of the Pops*: Peter Powell introduces this sequence of best-selling pop music. 7.30 *News*: with Mike Smith. Comedies about a holiday camp, with Simon Cadell as the ex-Cambridge don turned entertainer. Tonight: grooves when a beauty queen is seen entering his chair. 8.35 *Partners*: Ronald Pictor's Joan Allen's story The Night the Stars were Gone. 8.40 *Scoby and Scrappy Doo*: cartoon. The Neon Phantom of the Roller Disco.

6.35 *Music-Hall Greats*. Ask a Policeman (1940). Will Hay is the village police sergeant who, with two assistants, Graham Moffatt (Moore Marriott), faces the task of making an arrest (See Personal Choice).  
8.50 *News* with subtitles for the hard of hearing.  
9.00 *Treasures of the Hermitage*. The canvases by Matisse and Picasso which are in the famous Leningrad Museum. This is the second film in a series of three about the works of art on show at the Hermitage. Maria Goring is the narrator.  
9.30 *Russell Hardy*. Live from the BBC's Manchester studios. With 10.00 *News*. 10.10 *Play School*. 10.30 *The Little World of Don Camillo*. The priest devises a ruse to persuade a man who has one

million dollars to give away that he should spend it on providing a home for old people and poor children in the village. Special guest appearance by George Coulouris.  
9.30 *Man Alive*. A Loving Thing. A 15-year-old boy drives his racing car whether badly damaged babies should be allowed to die. We are told about three case histories at Wycombe General Hospital and the parents' dilemma in each case (See Personal Choice).  
10.20 *The Mike Harding Show*. The Lancashire comedian puns on another one-man show at the Grand Theatre in Blackpool.  
10.50 *Newsnight*. The day's main news stories, plus special features. Linda Alexander reads the bulletin, and Marshall Lee handles the sports coverage. Ends at 11.40.

Regions

**SBC** VARIATIONS: SBC, Cymru, Wales. 10.10-10.30 *News*. 10.30 *Play School*. 10.35 *News*. 10.40 *News*. 10.45 *News*. 10.50 *News*. 10.55 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.05 *News*. 11.10 *News*. 11.15 *News*. 11.20 *News*. 11.25 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 11.35 *News*. 11.40 *News*. 11.45 *News*. 11.50 *News*. 11.55 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.05 *News*. 12.10 *News*. 12.15 *News*. 12.20 *News*. 12.25 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 12.35 *News*. 12.40 *News*. 12.45 *News*. 12.50 *News*. 12.55 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.05 *News*. 1.10 *News*. 1.15 *News*. 1.20 *News*. 1.25 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 1.35 *News*. 1.40 *News*. 1.45 *News*. 1.50 *News*. 1.55 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.05 *News*. 2.10 *News*. 2.15 *News*. 2.20 *News*. 2.25 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 2.35 *News*. 2.40 *News*. 2.45 *News*. 2.50 *News*. 2.55 *News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.05 *News*. 3.10 *News*. 3.15 *News*. 3.20 *News*. 3.25 *News*. 3.30 *News*. 3.35 *News*. 3.40 *News*. 3.45 *News*. 3.50 *News*. 3.55 *News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.05 *News*. 4.10 *News*. 4.15 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